

Today's Times average
 Sunday 50p, Monday 50p, Tuesday 50p, Wednesday 50p, Thursday 50p, Friday 50p, Saturday 50p
 Canada \$2.75, Belgium 8 Francs, France 12 Francs, Germany 12 DM, Holland 12 Gld, Italy 12,000 Lire, Japan 12,000 Yen, Norway 12,000 Kroner, Portugal 12 Esc, Spain 12 Ptas, Sweden 12 Kronor, Switzerland 12 Francs, Tunisia 12 Din, USA \$3.00.

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Nigel Mansell spraying Ayrton Senna with champagne at the end of the Hungarian grand prix yesterday. Senna won the battle, but second-placed Mansell won the war: the championship

Bush pins hope on tax cuts and Saddam

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN HOUSTON

A FEARFUL and demoralised Republican party opens its Houston convention to-night amid mounting speculation that President Bush may be on the verge of two dramatic and contentious steps that could revive his bleak hopes of re-election.

Mr Bush, who once said he would do anything to win re-election, was reportedly preparing for a confrontation with Iraq during the convention week, possibly as early as today, that might lead to renewed military conflict. There were also hints that, in spite of America's record budget deficit, Mr Bush would call for tax cuts in his Thursday night speech to resurrect one of the Republicans' most potent electoral cards of the 1980s.

Either step would provoke the charge that the president was subverting the national interest to ensure his own political survival, and would be seen in many quarters as a measure of his present desperation.

The confrontation with Iraq could be triggered either by an Iraqi refusal to allow UN arms inspectors into ministries, or later in the week by a UN ultimatum demanding an end to President Saddam Hussein's repression of Shia Muslims in the south. Historically a president's ratings jump at a time of international turmoil, and one official complained in yesterday's *New York Times* that "we are going to stage an incident... to help get the president re-elected".

In a weekend interview, with *Time* magazine, Mr Bush called the 1990 abandonment of his "no new taxes" pledge a political and economic mistake, but continued: "I'll be making some proposals regarding the economy, that I'm not going to discuss now, that I think will take care of it." Officials cautioned against expecting "a gigantic overhaul of the economy", but conservatives have been pressing Mr Bush to

Continued on page 7, col 1
 Saddam cornered, page 7
 Anthony Howard, page 10
 Leading article, page 11

UN aid convoy freed from mined bridge

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

UNITED Nations forces last night rescued one of their aid convoys trapped in Bosnia at a mined bridge.

The convoy had run the gauntlet of fighting to deliver 46 tonnes of food and medicine to the eastern Muslim town of Gorazde, cut off for four months from the outside world. As the empty lorries headed back towards Sarajevo after a two-day trip, they ran into a land-mined bridge nine miles from the town that both sides in the fighting refused to unlock.

The relief team camped out overnight and a mine-clearing team of three French armoured personnel carriers was dispatched from Sarajevo. That convoy in turn was delayed more than four hours as it passed through a checkpoint after checking for fighting zones south of Sarajevo. When the French reached the bridge it took them an hour to make it safe.

A previous effort to get food into Gorazde last month failed when the United Nations convoy hit a landmine and had to be rescued. The 70,000 residents had no access to food, water and electricity under the Serbian siege.

In London, a cabinet committee is expected tomorrow to decide whether Britain should send troops to Bosnia to help to protect relief convoys. But in Washington, President Bush again emphasised that he has no intention of deploying American ground troops.

British contingency plans, believed to include deployment of the Parachute Regiment, have been drawn up since last week's UN resolutions sanctioning force to protect aid convoys. Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, said yesterday that no decision would be taken until aid agencies announced their requirements.

British ministers remain deeply reluctant to use ground troops and say they would be used only for convoy protection and not for separating the warring factions.

The government hopes to use the London peace conference on the Yugoslav fighting on August 26-28, chaired jointly by Britain and the UN, to force the Serbs to abandon "ethnic cleansing" and to persuade them to return seized territory. Mr Hogg said on radio: "They're going to have to give it back." If they did not, "Bosnian Serbs and Serbia will be treated as pariahs".

The prime minister will break his holiday for a meeting of the cabinet's defence and overseas policy committee which will review policy on the Yugoslav crisis and assess the prospects for the peace conference.

Daredevil relief pilots treat Hercules like stunt planes

The descent into Sarajevo airport with the RAF is gut-wrenching. At 1500 ft above the perimeter fence that divides the airport from Sarajevo's scarred suburbs, the C130 Hercules transport plane simply drops out of the sky at 150 ft a second in an emergency landing known as "Khe Sanh", a technique developed by US pilots during the Vietnam War.

Gravity drops to virtually nothing during the roller coaster descent; the uninitiated send to pass out. About 200 ft from the ground - or just over a second before the plane is about to plummet nose first into the runway - Captain Mike Crosby pulls the plane out of its dive and levels out, slamming on the brakes a few seconds after landing. The latest food aid to Bosnia has arrived.

There is no respite even then: the relief plane's arrival

The descent is terrifying; the take-off even worse. Robert Seely joins the RAF as it braves the snipers and heavy artillery to deliver food on a hair-raising flying visit to Sarajevo

is a precursor for intensified shooting around the airfield as darkness falls. As one UN official said: "At night they come out to play." I watched a Serb T-55 tank pull up along the perimeter fence on one side of the runway, and begin blasting Muslim positions on the airport's far side. The night was lit by tracer fire and the orange blasts of mortar shells as the moon rose over the mountains around Sarajevo.

The scene around the base is of utter ruin. Opposite the hanger controlled by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is a no-man's land of devastated buildings between Muslim and Serbian positions.

The red tiled roofs of the suburbs houses have been holed countless times. Many of the buildings have been razed; the rest are reduced to shells for snipers to lie in wait. On either side of the runway, gunmen were backed by UN teams from bunkers on the airport's perimeter move in the gutted houses, occasionally exchanging shells and self-propelled grenades.

Officially, the United Nations operation here is proceeding as planned. The Antonov and Hercules transport planes fly in and out 23 times a day, more or less on schedule. In reality, conditions resemble a scene from

Continued on page 14, col 2



Farrah: happy despite journey across Irish Sea

Parents thank abductor

BY RAY CLANCY

THE parents of Farrah Quli last night thanked the woman who snatched their baby from their London home for looking after her so well. "Farrah is marvellous. She is happy and not upset in any way despite her travel," Shane Quli told a press conference in Ireland, where abductor and baby were found on Saturday.

Mr Quli and his wife, Bernadette, indicated that they were sympathetic towards the woman who took their baby. She is thought to be suffering psychiatric problems.

Barney Curran, garda assistant commissioner, said the woman, who has not been named, had been questioned and released. A report was being prepared for the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions and it would be up to the Metropolitan Police to request extradition if they wanted to press charges.

The woman, in her 20s, was at her parents' home in Limerick when she was apprehended after a local person tipped off police. She had been seen at Victoria coach station on Thursday and later on a ferry from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire.

It is believed that she is about to undergo a course of psychiatric treatments for problems relating to her own children, who are living in England. She is thought to have been trying unsuccessfully to visit them when she was in London.

Family's joy, page 2

Nearly man Mansell celebrates at last

NIGEL Mansell won the Formula One world drivers' championship yesterday and laid to rest his reputation as the unlucky man of motor racing. He had come close three times in the past, only to be beaten by misfortune.

"When you've been runner-up three times, winning the world championship is the greatest thing in your life," Mansell, 39, said after the Hungarian Grand Prix. "You think you're never going to crack it."

Mansell came second in the race behind last year's champion, Ayrton Senna, leaving him 52 points clear of his Italian team mate Riccardo Patrese with five races remaining.

There had never seemed any doubt that Mansell would be Britain's first world champion since James Hunt in 1976. He started in crushing style in South Africa and has since won seven more races, coming second in two. His only real setback came in Canada, where he spun out after trying to overtake Senna.

Mansell champion, page 26

TODAY IN THE TIMES

PROWLING AROUND



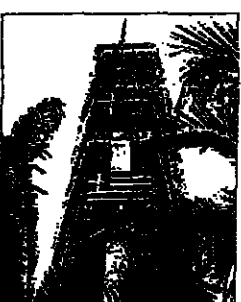
The fur is fake, the controversy is real. fashion houses are unrepentant. Liz Smith on a style stampede
Life & Times
 Page 5

CHIPPING AWAY



Today computers make a fresh attempt to diminish human domination of intelligence, says Nigel Hawkes
Life & Times
 Page 1

QUEUING UP



Matthew Parris discovers a new symbol of national virility at Expo '92
Life & Times
 Page 10

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Fakes are the genuine art of the recession

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

FAKE fur and costume jewellery have long been acceptable accessories to any wardrobe. Now the trend has moved to the art world where more and more collectors are putting their Chagalls in the bank and their fakes on the wall.

The art market for shams has never been so good. From America to Japan, collectors labouring under the recession are selling original masterpieces and replacing them with copies.

Next month, British admirers of the French Impressionists will be able to bid in London for their favourite painting, safe in the knowledge that each comes with a certificate authenticating it as a genuine fake. Later in the year, Bonhams is to give the trade the final seal of respectability with an auction of Spanish reproductions of masterpieces from Rembrandt to Van Gogh. It was Bonhams that proved copies were ac-

ceptable with the first auction of the work of the master British forger, Tom Keating. The record price for one of his works now stands at £27,500.

The boom has already struck elsewhere. One of Manhattan's most fashionable galleries is the recently-opened True Fakes where copies of Picasso's *Miros*, Legers and other modern masters can be picked up for as little as \$950. Even the signatures are faithfully reproduced. Japan, too, has entered the faking fray. Copies of the leading Impressionists have been commissioned from a French art dealer specialising in genuine fakes for a new museum in Tokyo, complete with a *Mona Lisa*.

The copyists' art is by no means an easy one, however. Susie Ray for example, who knocks out old masters from a Covent Garden workshop and who can command £5,000 for a good mock Impressionist, goes to great lengths to reproduce the original materials. Wax is

mixed with paint for Van Goghs; dirt and matt glaze are laboriously rubbed on canvases to give the nicotine stain of old age.

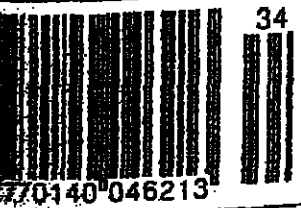
The fake's growing allure is a mix of money and snob value, according to the magazine. "People like copies because when friends come to visit, they are not sure whether the painting is original," one expert explains. Insurers, too, can be kept at bay if masterpieces are banked and copies put on the wall.

The owner of a 14th-century castle, near Exeter, was so upset at having to sell some of the family furniture to pay capital gains tax and repair bills, that he commissioned faithful reproductions, at a tenth of the price, to replace them.

One word of warning for the would-be investor, however. Fakes are now clearly stamped as being copies. But, the magazine *The Antique Collector* asks, will it be so easy to spot a copy several owners and years down the line?



INDEX	
Births, marriages, deaths	12
Crossword	14
Letters	11
Obituaries	13
Sport	20-26
Weather	14
LIFE & TIMES	
Arts	2-3
Modern Times	4-5
Education	7
University results	8-10
Compass Crossword	11
TV & radio	12



Highland games champion fights ban

By KERRY GILL

JOE Quigley, the World and British heavyweight Highland games champion who was banned from Scottish Highland games on Saturday for taking the drug clenbuterol, is to consult his lawyers today in an effort to have the ruling overturned. The ban is for six months but he could face a life ban.

Quigley, 30, an Australian who joined the Highland games circuit in Scotland only several weeks ago, tested positive for the drug at the Balloch games last month. The decision to ban him, taken by the Scottish Games Association (SGA), was announced at Crieff Highland games in Perthshire, in which the heavy events athlete was expected to take part.

However, Quigley did not turn up at Crieff. Instead he was 200 miles away at Helmsdale Highland Gathering in Sutherland, where he broke two records and collected about £200 in prize money. He appeared with David Huxley, another Australian, and broke the ground record for the 16lb ball with a throw of 51ft 4in. Later, with the 22lb ball, he threw more than 3ft further than the previous 40ft record.

The organisers of the Helmsdale games are expected to demand their money back. Quigley said yesterday that he would appeal. He heard of the SGA's decision on the radio.

He is due to take part in the Ullapool Highland games, organised by Hamish Davidson, a local strongman and promoter, later this week. Since the Ullapool games are not under the SGA umbrella, the ban will not apply. It will also only apply to Scotland.

Graeme Simmers, chairman of the Scottish Sports Council, said Quigley's weekend records would be nullified. "My understanding is that he is banned from competition and will not be accepted in other Highland games run by the SGA. Most of the games that are of any repute are members of the association," he said.

Quigley is the second Highland games athlete to test positive since the sports council introduced its independent drug testing programme three years ago.

Clenbuterol, which is used on the Continent to treat asthma, also has anabolic (bulk-building) qualities. It burns off body fat, helps protein retention and promotes rapid muscle development.

Clenbuterol is not on the list of drugs banned by the International Olympics Committee but it is outlawed inside and outside competition. Its chemical structure is related to the stimulant adrenaline.



Before the fall: Joe Quigley, left, at Helmsdale with competitors Hamish Davidson and Francis Brebner before learning of the ban

Tory sceptics to support French fight

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY MPs campaigning against the Maastricht treaty on European union plan to join like-minded French parliamentarians in calling for a no vote in the French referendum on September 20.

They intend to join other European MPs on French platforms and otherwise lend a "physical presence" to show that criticism of the Maastricht deal is now a pan-European phenomenon.

British ministers are growing increasingly nervous that the unpopularity of France's Socialist government may result in the French electorate rejecting ratification of the Maastricht treaty and they concede that it would be dead if that happened. British Eurosceptics have been told by French opponents of the treaty that the large number of "don't knows" indicated in early French opinion polls are now tending to come down against the government.

"Everything now depends on the French referendum," a leading Tory rebel said yesterday. "If they vote against the treaty, then the Tory party conference will be a mere echo as the government has to extricate itself. The prime

minister has left himself without a way out."

If the French do vote yes, the Tory campaigners still intend to mount an offensive at their party's conference at Brighton in October. They expect Baroness Thatcher to boost their cause at a fringe meeting. The conference agenda will not be published until mid-September, but a leaked draft shows many motions critical of government policies on Europe and the economy. A dozen call for Britain, too, to have a referendum on Maastricht and one from Scarborough openly congratulates the Danes for their vote against.

In an indication that Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, faces a difficult conference, Bow and Poplar Conservative Association calls for Britain to leave the European exchange-rate mechanism because of its "devastating" impact on employment and business prospects. Thurrock Conservatives urge ministers to "slash interest rates and get people back to work".

Leading article, page 11
Charts point way, page 15
French fears, page 16

London council tax bias rejected

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CLAIM that more than 400,000 Londoners will have to pay a "surcharge" of £93 a head on council tax bills next year because of falling property prices was rejected by the government yesterday.

The Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities said that by using April 1991 prices as the basis for valuing properties, the government would penalise people in the capital. London house prices are estimated to have fallen by 15 per cent since April last year and the ALA said that bills based on current prices would save householders between £60 and £120 a year.

More than 23 million properties in mainland Britain are being put into one of eight tax bands according to their market value on 1 April 1991. The first bills will be sent out next March.

Sieve Bullock, vice-chairman of the association, said: "Londoners are losing twice over from the council tax. With higher than average house prices in the capital and no regional banding, average homeowners will end up in higher bands."

"Now with London house prices falling more rapidly than elsewhere they end up paying a surcharge because valuations will be two years out of date. Councils will be inundated with appeals."

The environment department said that April 1991 had been chosen as the valuation date for all properties in Britain to ensure that every householder was treated equally.

"Is the association seriously suggesting that if house prices were to go up that people in London would be happy to pay more? The tax bands are wide and even if a house has fallen in value it is unlikely to have fallen into the next band," a spokesman said. "We hope that people will not be encouraged to waste time and money on appeals which have no chance of success."

Leading article, page 11

Parents celebrate baby's safe return

Ray Clancy reports on Shane and Bernadette Quli's joy after the anguish of their daughter Farrah's kidnap ended

BABY Farrah Quli yesterday looked a picture of health as she smiled and giggled at a press conference after being reunited with her parents.

The six-month-old girl, abducted from her home in east London last Thursday, played with a white teddy bear bought for her by police officers in Ireland. Her parents looked overjoyed as they talked about the anguish and joy they had experienced over the last few days.

"The first moment I saw Farrah she was fast asleep in a cot. It was like giving birth all over again," said Bernadette Quli, 24, as she bounced her daughter on her knee. Her husband, Shane, 31, a sales executive who was on a business trip to Dubai when his daughter disappeared, said they were both thrilled to be reunited.

Farrah's bright eyes and laughing face melted every heart in the room when she appeared at a press conference at the Garda headquarters in Dublin. She stretched out her arms and tried to knock over the microphones that were stacked around her like a barrier.

She grabbed the assistant commissioner's best hat that was lying on the table and had everyone in fits of laughter. He father picked her up and gently kissed her cheek. Later after being fed, Farrah returned to the glare of the media and her parents

celebrated with champagne. "All our nightmares are history now," Mr Quli said. Mrs Quli, who was born in Ireland, said that when she heard that Farrah had been seen on the ferry to Dublin she felt enormous relief. "I'm Irish and I felt more confident when I heard that she was on Irish soil," she said.

Her husband said: "The Irish community is a very close one. People remember faces and don't forget. That helped in getting Farrah back. I am sure."

The couple said they had always hoped that their daughter would be found safe and well. Mr Quli described how he forced himself to remain calm after hearing about her disappearance. "I had a six-hour flight back to London. I could have let my imagination run away but I decided to stay cool. I decided to think positive," he said.

The couple said the police in England and Ireland had been very supportive and helpful. They disclosed that when they boarded a flight to Dublin on Saturday afternoon the police had still not located their daughter.

"All we knew was that Farrah had been seen in Ireland. But within one-and-a-half hours of arriving we heard she was in safe hands." They now plan to hold a party for their friends and neighbours to celebrate their daughter's safe return.



Nightmare over: Farrah with her parents

Small play role casts a spell

By JOE JOSEPH

IT IS a truth universally acknowledged that an unemployed actor in possession of an advertisement for an open audition must be in want of a good part, however ill-suited he might be to play it. Yesterday, while others enjoyed their day of rest, resting actors migrated to Hammer-smith to audition for the part of the boy in a stage version of Roald Dahl's best-seller *The Witches*.

The play opens in Sheffield in November for a 40-week tour, including a Christmas season in London. The audition notice in *The Stage* called for someone who looks 12 years old but who is at least 16 — which spares the producers the cost of hiring a chaperone for them — and no more than 5ft 4in tall.

Had there been a you-can-not-be-serious award, it would have gone either to

Elidh Stewart — partly because she was female, partly because she grew distraught when told that not only was Roald Dahl not involved in yesterday's casting but that he was dead — and a greying man, maybe in his forties, who was once a member of a 1970s glam-rock group. Others fitted the age and height demands, and fell short only when it came to acting.

Dahl's book is the tale of a young boy who runs foul of some witches, who turn him into a mouse. The bait of glory and a likely salary of about £300 a week plus touring allowances hooked some unlikely fish. Alex Geiger, a boyish 16-year-old, read the ad in the *Hendon* and *Finchley Times*. "Depending on my A-level results, I'll be going to Cambridge or Imperial College to

study natural sciences, but I've got a year off. I have never done any acting, but they were looking for a young-looking person who is actually quite old, and under 5ft 4in, that's me."

More experienced was Mark Finn, an Australian living in London. "The last thing I was in was *Winnie the Pooh* in Australia. I was Piglet." He is 32, but petite. Does he mind casting for the part of a 12-year-old? "It's destiny."

The limelight will not shine just on young men. In each town the producers will hire local women to play the roles of 20 witches, aged 20-70. "The essential thing," says James Woods, the play's co-producer, "is that they're nice, ordinary, respectable-looking women." Yes, that could mean you, madam. Go on, enter stage left.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policy on football safety 'confused'

David Mellor, heritage minister, promised yesterday to take steps to clarify whether club safety officers or police ground commanders have the final say on crowd safety measures at football matches (Robin Oakley writes). Mr Mellor was commenting on allegations of confusion between the club representatives and police officers deputised to crowd control.

Tom Pendry, Labour's sports spokesman, wrote to Mr Mellor the day before the season opened on Saturday to say that clubs were uncertain of the "chain of command" on safety matters. He pointed out that Lord Justice Taylor had emphasised the need for clarity in his report on football ground safety. Mr Pendry cited a case where a police ground commander had diverted visiting fans into non-segregated areas, totally against the wishes of the home club's safety officer. He mentioned another case where the safety officer opposed a police commander's wish for perimeter gate fences to be locked — something which the Football Licensing Authority advises against — and said that there was confusion between the police and the safety officer over who had the right to decide.

Football reports, pages 22-3, 26

Fears over elderly care

The government's care-in-the-community reforms, leading to changes in who pays for the care of elderly people, are likely to result in hospital bed shortages, according to health policy analysts. In a report from the Independent Kings Fund Institute, published today, Michael Hemwood claims a new model of NHS nursing homes must be developed to avert the threat of "massive destabilisation" of the health service. Under the reforms, from April 1993 councils and health authorities will have a duty to provide care for all elderly people. The report, *Through a Glass Darkly: Community Care and Elderly People*, claims the reforms fail to spell out that nursing care should be provided on the NHS. As a result, it is feared elderly patients could be left on hospital wards, taking up vital space, because health authorities may refuse to pay nursing home fees.

£6m drugs charges

Two men will appear in court today charged with conspiracy to supply drugs after police seized 75kgs of the drug ecstasy with a street value of up to £6 million. Scotland Yard said. Kenneth Wildman, 36, a Spanish nightclub owner, and Terence Fitzgerald, 47, unemployed, of Whitstable, Kent, will appear before magistrates at Highbury Corner, north London. The seizure, at a Carwick car park, is thought to be one of the largest of the drug and followed a three-week police operation.

Computer's title fight



The first match for a world title between a human and a machine is to take place today at the Park Lane Hotel, London, when Dr. Marion Tinsley, above, draughts world champion for 38 years, plays the Canadian program Chinook, the fastest-rising star in the game. According to its programmer, Professor Jonathan Schaeffer, of the University of Alberta, Canada, Chinook has 17 billion positions stored in its memory banks and can analyse at the rate of three million moves a minute. To the consternation of the draughts fraternity, Chinook qualified to challenge Dr. Tinsley, from Ohio. He said: "It has saved me from the boredom of beating the same human opponents again and again." He accepts the validity of the challenge.

Are humans still ahead? L&T Section, page 1

Roadside complaints

Motorists want cheaper and better food from motorway service stations, according to a survey published today. Roadside cafes are now a big part of the catering industry, with sales in 1991 totalling more than £500 million. Just over one in ten of the 1,000 people questioned for the roadside catering report by Mintel, the market research company, had eaten at a roadside restaurant in the past month. Almost half (43 per cent) said they wanted food prices to come down and 27 per cent wanted better quality. A fifth said having car mechanics available would be a good idea. Analyst Fenella McCarthy said: "Mechanical breakdown facilities do already exist at all motorway service areas. What this response highlights is the lack of awareness of these facilities." The motorway service areas account for 45 per cent of the roadside catering market.

Car bomb blast

Detectives were yesterday searching for a group of animal rights extremists suspected of planting a firebomb under the car of a young huntswoman. The bomb exploded at 1am yesterday, causing little damage, as Sarah Godley's Ford Sierra stood in the drive of the house she shares with her sister Joanna and parents Peter and Jean in Westcott, Surrey. Ms Godley, 31, a member of the Surrey Union Hunt, claims that animal rights extremists have been trying to murder her. She said she has been singled out for attacks after video-filming animal rights activists attacking hunters. The tapes have been used by the pro-hunting lobby.

Police believe the detonator may not have triggered off all the explosive.

RAF commemoration

Ely Cathedral, a reassuring wartime landmark for homecoming bomber crews, was the setting for a special RAF service yesterday marking the foundation of the elite Pathfinder Force 50 years ago. Mrs Lys Bennett, widow of the late Air Vice-Marshal Don Bennett, commander of the force, was in the congregation with about 800 former air and ground crew. The Rev Michael Wadsworth, 49, vicar of Haddenham and Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, gave the sermon. He lost his father in Pathfinder operations over southern Germany in 1944. He said that of 93 seven-man Lancaster crews posted to the unit between June 1943 and March/April 1944, only 17 survived. "Nevertheless, there was a strange alchemy about bomber operations," he said. "They were a special breed."

Soccer therapy ignored

A football player told by a judge to emulate the fair play of the England international Gary Lineker has been sent off in the first match of the season. Ian Jolosa, 28, from Cwmbran, Gwent, was ordered off in the fifth minute after charging and kicking a goalkeeper in his first match for Aberystwyth Thursdays in the League of Wales. Earlier this month Judge Prosser, QC, told him to watch Lineker for breaking a player's jaw. Yesterday Mr Jolosa denied he was a dirty player. He admitted he had not followed the judge's advice. "I treated his words as a bit of a joke. I prefer action films," David Morris, club secretary, said. "Ian joined us three weeks ago because he had disciplinary problems at his last club. He will be banned for two weeks."

Charity hangs dies in

Classroom decline revealed

Chairman lost

Handwritten note: "The 11th of 150"

Charity man found hanged after wife dies in grisly attack

BY KERRY GILL

A CHARITY worker whose wife died of injuries after being attacked outside their home last week has been found hanged in his garage. It appeared that Robin Hood, 45, could not bear life without his wife, Marion, and took his own life soon after going for a walk with his dog at the weekend, a Strathclyde police spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Hood, a development worker with the Scottish Council for Spastics, left messages indicating that he was missing his wife, Det Supt Bobby Redmond said. He wrote two notes to his children saying: "I can't live without mum. Please forgive me."

Mrs Hood, 45, a civilian police worker, died from terri-

ble injuries in hospital early on Friday, after being attacked with a metal bar when she went to fetch paint from the garage of their home in Paisley, near Glasgow, on Wednesday.

Det Supt Redmond said that Mr Hood had gone for a walk with his dog at about 5pm on Saturday. The dog returned to the house alone, Margaret Blazie, Mr Hood's sister, found the widower in the garage. He was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, but was dead on arrival. The Hoods' children, Kenneth, 16, and Pamela, 19, were being cared for by relatives and neighbours.

Mr Redmond said: "It is tragic. From our investigation there are no suspicious

circumstances in the death of Mr Hood. It would appear that he could not live without his wife. You can imagine the shock for the family. This is a double tragedy."

Police have appealed for any information from children who may have been playing in a nearby lane at the time Mrs Hood was attacked. Mrs Blazie said: "Now the murderer has two deaths on his conscience. He killed Robin just as surely as he murdered Marion last week."

Mrs Blazie, a nurse, said she found her brother and ran to telephone for an ambulance. "Dozens of neighbours came running to the house when the alarm was raised. They took Robin down and spent some time trying to revive him with artificial respiration."

"I used my professional knowledge as a nurse to try to revive Robin as well, but it was too late. I knew in my heart when I saw him at first that he was already dead. But we kept trying and the paramedics from the ambulance kept trying all the way to the hospital."

She told how she found her brother after he had taken the dog, Goldie, for a walk. "I searched the house for him and then the garden. I looked inside the garage and saw him."

Mrs Blazie said that two notes addressed to the children were found by police in her brother's pockets. "We don't know yet where the children are going to live," she said. "They have grandparents and they could come with me, but nothing has been decided."

The couple made use of their names for charity, dressing up in Robin Hood and Maid Marion costumes. Detectives hunting the killers of Jean Keay in Prestwick have appealed for information from anyone noticing bloodstained clothing on a friend or relative. Mrs Keay, 60, was killed by masked intruders on Thursday at the home she shared with her sister and an elderly lodger, George Scott, 74, who was also badly beaten.



Laying on of hands: faith healer Morris Cerullo at Earl's Court in June. Doctors have not verified claims that he worked miracles

No evidence found for Cerullo 'miracles'

ORGANISATIONS such as that of the American evangelist and faith healer Morris Cerullo, which claim to perform miracle healings, should provide medical evidence to substantiate them, the Church Council for Health and Healing said yesterday.

The Rev David Howell, the council's director, said that missions which presented themselves "with triumphalism and overriding promises of miracles" had left a trail of "disillusioned casualties".

He said: "If claims of this sort are made, it is reasonable to ask for evidence to support them."

His comments came as the BBC programme *Heart of the Matter* last night revealed that a seven-week investigation into claims of miraculous cures at Mr Cerullo's Mission in London at Earl's Court in June re-

sulted in none having been authenticated by doctors.

The council, which represents 67 churches and medical bodies such as the British Medical Association and the royal colleges, is concerned that such rallies might give people the impression that the "miracles" are in some way typical of the churches' mission in Britain today.

Mr Cerullo had accepted a challenge on national television at the end of June to produce his three best cases for medical scrutiny. This followed an announcement by his organisation, World Evangelism of Great Britain, that 476 people had testified to having been miraculously healed at the week-long mission, which drew more than 80,000 people. Disabled people had criticised an advertising campaign featuring over-

turned wheelchairs and broken white canes.

Mr Cerullo's organisation agreed to give the programme-makers details of the three cases within a fortnight. It was not until four weeks later, however, that Mr Cerullo, who believes he is operating under a direct mandate from God to reach a billion people before the end of the millennium, produced 26 written testimonies at a press conference.

Doctors in nine of the cases said there was no reason to assume a miracle had taken place, and any change in condition could be put

down to coincidence. Of the remaining cases, five refused to speak to the programme-makers and the medical records of the other 12 have not yet been made available.

Natalya Barned had cancer of the bone, or neuroblastoma. During the Earl's Court service she had gone on to the stage and Mr Cerullo had asked for thanks for the healing of the cancer. Natalya's mother confirmed that since the healing her daughter had been eating well and was more active. But she had also needed several blood transfusions. The medical prognosis of terminal cancer was unchanged.

The programme also followed up the case of three-year-old Arzam Anjum, from Walthamstow, whose parents claimed that the sight in his defective left eye had been restored at the London meeting. The eye specialist

treating Arzam re-examined him and found that the problem remained.

The least conclusive case was that of Sheila Lambhead, 45, from Lancashire, who two years ago attended a Morris Cerullo meeting in Blackpool and has not since suffered the acute back pain which had left her virtually crippled for several years previously.

Her consultant confirmed that the degenerative disc had not been healed but the symptoms seemed to have disappeared and she could now move, walk and jump without pain.

The Rev Greg Mauro, who heads the UK operation and who has disputed the programme's findings, said: "It takes months - three, four, six months - to prove miracles of these kinds. You cannot reasonably expect to obtain medical verification within a matter of weeks."

'Classroom decline concealed'

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A STEADY decline in primary classroom standards and infant literacy has been systematically concealed by a "defensive monopoly" within the education establishment, a leading psychologist who initiated the debate on reading in 1990, claims in *The Times* today.

Martin Turner says that the atmosphere in most primary schools is now incompatible with education because of poor discipline and a reluctance to use "whole-class" teaching techniques. He criticises the National Research Foundation (NFER), which has linked low reading standards to social deprivation and questioned the extent of the alleged decline for providing "oil for the machinery of institutional cover-up".

"Concern with the truth has become tantamount to taking an axe to the welfare state" in a "saga of fudge and counter-fudge," Mr Turner says. His original research into reading, which "stumbled across" the biggest decline in standards for 40 years, caused a heated debate.

Clare Bursell, director of the NFER, said the foundation did not get government funding, as Mr Turner claimed. "We've been an independent body since our foundation in 1945. There's a popular impression that we've publicly funded but the bulk of our money comes from competitive contracts. We present the facts as they are. We don't have any political bias or axe to grind."

She said Mr Turner had a tendency to issue attractive sound-bites but informed generalisations about children's reading would be impossible until several years after tests for seven-year-olds had passed. "No one, and certainly not Mr Turner, has had access to national information."

Education Times, L&T section, page 7

Syllabus attacked as sexist

BY OUR EDUCATION

CORRESPONDENT

THE planned reforms of the technology syllabus in schools are sexist and will discourage girls who prefer to specialise in the more traditional aspects of the subject, teachers and pupils at a Yorkshire public school for girls say.

The education department has encouraged "single" inspectors to give more emphasis to construction and design in their review of the technology national curriculum. In its submission to the review, The Mount School, in York, whose old girls include Dame Judi Dench, the actress, Antonia Byatt, the writer, and Kate Bellingham, presenter of the *Tomorrow's World* television programme, says that sexist design and technology and graphic design are likely to be marginalised by a more rugged approach to technology in the classroom.

"It would help neither pupils, schools nor industry in Britain to push technology back to being predominantly a boys' subject. This is a matter of human rights and economic sense as well as sound educational practice," the school's submission says. James Pitt, head of art, design and technology at the boarding school, said that areas of technology popular with girls were likely to become optional subjects.

Anne Madden, head of the education unit at the Equal Opportunities Commission, said that the commission had received similar appeals from worried home economics teachers but generally supported the shift to construction for all pupils.

Helen Williams, headmistress of St Paul's Girls' School, west London, has resigned. Her departure follows speculation that her teaching philosophy, including the limiting of pupils' GCSE courses, was incompatible with the school's reputation as an academic powerhouse. Plans for her replacement are expected to be announced this week.

Cliffside theatre marks 60th year

BY JOHN YOUNG

SIXTY years ago today *The Times* carried a review of a performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on a cliff about three miles from Land's End. Today sees the start of a week's performances of the same play by the Drama Workshop of Waltham Forest, northeast London.

The Minack Theatre is a spectacular outdoor arena. Although it is relatively small, seating about 800, its dramatic setting, high above a steep rocky cove and the ocean beyond, provides an unforgettable extra dimension.

The theatre's founder and guiding spirit was the late Rowena Cade, whose family had bought a house nearby for summer holidays. In 1929 a local village group

staged a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a meadow beside a stream, which was well received and encouraged it to seek permission the next year to produce *The Tempest* in the garden of the Cade house on the cliffs.

But there was no suitable space in the garden for stage or audience, and Miss Cade decided to build a terrace next door. Over the next three years stones and earth were brought to the site by wheelbarrow, and granite for the stage and seating carved from boulders.

During the war the site was used as an anti-aircraft gun post but afterwards, against all expectations, the theatre responded to encouragingly large audiences.

On this day, page 13



Philip Jackson, the manager, overseeing rehearsals

Antiques 'bugged' for safety

BY ROBIN YOUNG

ANTIQUES collectors and dealers believe they may finally have been provided with the means to defeat thieves, thanks to computer wizardry that has engineered micro-chip "bugs" small enough to fit into woodworm holes.

The match-head sized implants carry a code number that can be read with a special decoding gun, identifying the owners of the items.

The system was developed by ID-Link, of Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester. A bug costs £25 to install and is said to last forever.

Thieves who found the bug could remove it, but as the implant is so tiny it would be difficult, or often impossible, to detect without smashing the object. Selected furniture restorers and antique dealers are now trying out the system, putting the micro-chips into furniture, porcelain, picture frames and even garden statues.

Detective Constable Jim Hill, of Thames Valley Police's antiques section, said: "There has been a huge increase in antiques and art thefts in recent years. The cash-in-hand, no-questions-asked way that business is conducted makes it almost impossible to trace stolen items. A system like this should improve our chances of identifying the owners of items we recover."

He says that he was merely exercising his discretion as chairman and had kept within the D&AD's public relations budget. He accuses members of the executive committee of seeking to blacken his name.

Mr Booth-Clibborn, who had been chairman of D&AD for many years, was suspended last January, and was succeeded as chairman in May by Anthony Simmonds-Gooding, former chief executive of BSB, the satellite television consortium. No doubt D&AD members hope he will be on a rather less expensive diet.

Police told of kidnap ordeal

BY JENNY KNIGHT

A BANK manager whose wife was kidnapped by a bogus policeman for a £40,000 ransom spoke yesterday of his traumatic ordeal.

Elizabeth Kerr, bruised and shocked after spending four hours bound and gagged in the boot of the kidnapper's car on Friday, gave details to Cheshire detectives at the couple's Holmes Chapel home. Her husband Derek, 37, manager of Barclays Bank in Northenden Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, appealed in a statement issued by police for help in catching the man.

"My only concern throughout the whole of this incident has been for the safety of my wife," he said. He was relieved she was "relatively unscathed physically" although the mental scars

will take longer to heal.

Mrs Kerr, also 37, left their home with the kidnapper, who was dressed in what she took to be a police uniform, on Friday morning after he said Mr Kerr had been in a road accident and offered to drive her to hospital. Instead he drove across a field, hit her in the face, tied and gagged her and bundled her into the boot of his car.

Her husband was contacted at the bank and given minutes to get together £40,000 ransom in used notes. He was flagged down by the kidnapper, who was in another car, as he followed instructions to drive towards the M63. The man grabbed a bag containing the cash and drove off. Mrs Kerr, who works for Barclays' administrative offices in Knutsford,

was left tied up in a remote copse at Over Alderley, Cheshire. She struggled free after half an hour and raised the alarm at a local farm.

Police issued an artist's impression of the kidnapper, who is 6ft 3ins to 6ft 6ins tall with ginger hair and staring blue eyes. Barclays has offered a £50,000 reward for information leading to his conviction. Police hope Mr Kerr can take part in a reconstruction of the ransom pickup today. He told his employers of the kidnap but paid the ransom before alerting police. Detective Superintendent David Holt, leading the investigation, said: "Mr Kerr was only given about five or six minutes to deliver this money and I would not criticise anyone for not telling the police."

Chairman loses job after going a lunch too far

BY ROBIN YOUNG

EVERYONE knows that lunch in London can cost an arm and a leg. If you run up a bill of £448 for two, it can also cost you your job.

That is the experience of Edward Booth-Clibborn, who has been paid off with a year's salary from his £60,000-a-year job as chairman of the Designers & Art Directors Association of London because his lunch cost too much.

The D&AD's executive committee found the bill incurred at Le Gavroche, the Michelin three-star restaurant in Mayfair, too much to swallow and accused Mr Booth-Clibborn of claiming expenses "inappropriate to a registered charity

with severe cash-flow difficulties". Mr Booth-Clibborn, 60, is the great-grandson of William Booth, who founded the Salvation Army, and a cousin of the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, the present bishop of Manchester.

He entertained a guest, whom he has declined to name, at the restaurant, spending £39 on starters, £52.80 on fish dishes, £21 on cheeses, £19.30 on desserts and £8 on coffee. Two bottles of wine that accompanied the meal were £62.50 and £119.50, and a further half-bottle was bought for £126, bringing the total bill charged to D&AD's account, including VAT and service, to £448.10.

Albert Roux, the proprietor of the

restaurant, says that there are "much more expensive wines on his list. A bottle of Chateau Lafite 1945, for example, would have cost £700 and Chateau Mouton-Rothschild 1961 is on offer for £865."

But Mr Roux's restaurant provides a set lunch for only £29.50, and has wines on its list priced at under £20. Mr Roux says the average lunchtime bill for two with wine is little more than £80.

Mr Booth-Clibborn was art director of the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency for 12 years, and has in the past helped the Liberal and Labour parties prepare their party political television broadcasts. The D&AD's executive committee says that his expensive lunch came on top

of other matters that were complained of in a 117-page report accusing Mr Booth-Clibborn of mismanagement "unacceptable to the membership".

He says that he was merely exercising his discretion as chairman and had kept within the D&AD's public relations budget. He accuses members of the executive committee of seeking to blacken his name.

Mr Booth-Clibborn, who had been chairman of D&AD for many years, was suspended last January, and was succeeded as chairman in May by Anthony Simmonds-Gooding, former chief executive of BSB, the satellite television consortium. No doubt D&AD members hope he will be on a rather less expensive diet.

JOHN AND SALLY'S STORY

"Late last year our home was broken into and our T.V. and video were taken. We thought we would make some easy money by adding a few things to our insurance claim. Insurance companies don't check small claims we thought but they did and we had no receipts. A week later the police caught the thief and he admitted stealing the television and video but nothing else. We were interviewed and found out. Insurance evidence helped with the prosecution. We were each fined £200, an expensive lesson for us."

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Changing migration patterns highlight the onset of global warming

Rising temperatures send UK birds north

BRITISH birds of all types are showing behaviour changes that leading ornithologists consider consistent with the onset of global warming. Some of the new behaviour patterns have only recently been appreciated by the British Trust for Ornithology.

A large number of familiar species, including the skylark, the wren and the chaffinch, are showing a consistent trend over more than a decade towards an earlier date for laying their eggs, an action known to be prompted by temperature. Others, including the green woodpecker, the nuthatch and the hobby, are showing a marked move northwards in range, a phenomenon similarly thought to be consistent with temperatures rising.

A third group of more than a dozen species, including the Lapland bunting and the purple sandpiper, appears to be colonising the Scottish highlands from Scandinavia, a move British ornithologists again think may be due to climate change. A warming of Scandinavia may make the two areas seem more similar to birdlife.

The data on egg-laying has surprised the ornithology trust, which started its nest survey in 1939 and now takes in 30,000 records a year from 1,000 observers. The survey regularly covers 40 species and 17 of them (43 per cent) have shown a consistent trend towards earlier laying dates since 1978, according to Humphrey Crick, head of the trust's nest records unit.

The species are the kestrel, moorhen, lapwing, tawny owl, skylark, dipper, duncock, wheatear, wren, sedge warbler, willow warbler, meadow pipit, magpie, raven, chaffinch, linnet and redstart. The average date for the redstart, for example, has advanced from the last week of May in 1978 to the beginning of the second week of May in 1990. The stock dove, however, shows a trend of a later laying date. The other 22 species of the 40 regularly monitored, from the mute swan to the robin, show no obvious trend.

"I think it's an astonishing pattern when you look at it," Dr Crick said. "The species with earlier dates include all types of British breeding bird, migrants and residents, birds of wetlands and dry land. As an overall pattern, it's certainly consistent with climate change."

A further suggestion of global warming is given by evidence of several British bird



Some of Britain's best-known birds may be showing the effect of climate change in their new breeding and habitat patterns, reports Michael McCarthy in the third of a series

species extending their range north and west. The maps that tell the story will be published next year in *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*, compiled by the trust with the Irish Wild Bird Conservancy and the Scottish Ornithologists' club. The maps, which were drawn up between 1988 and 1991, indicate the distribution of all British breeding birds by 6.25 mile grid squares. They are an updating of those in an atlas drawn up between 1968 and 1972.

The maps show that over the past two decades the nuthatch, a small woodpecker-like bird of broad-leaved woods, has moved in numbers into the Lake District and for the first time over the border into Scotland.

The green woodpecker has gone much further north in Scotland. The reed warbler has moved north and west into Ireland for the first time. And the hobby has spread from southern England into Yorkshire and almost up to the Scottish border.

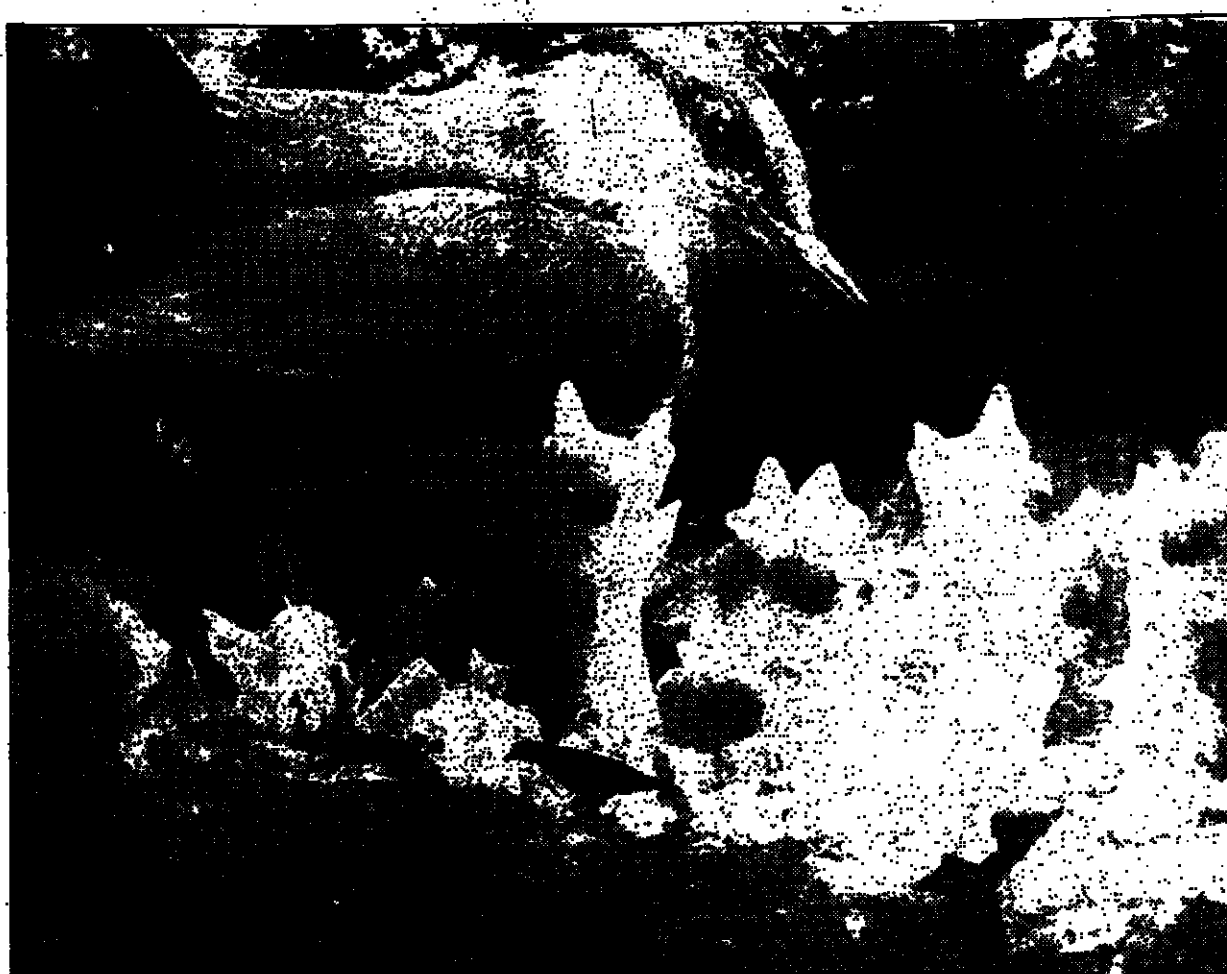
"For species like these, it is going to be very hard to argue that changes in land use have caused the shift north and west," said David Gibbons, who is co-ordinating work on the atlas. "The woods in the Lake District that the nuthatch has moved into were there 20 years ago. The influence of climate change is a question that can properly be raised."

Another recent bird phenomenon raising the question of global warming is the move into Scotland by several species whose usual breeding home is Scandinavia, such as the Lapland bunting, the purple sandpiper and the red-necked grebe. Scandinavian populations of birds that are becoming extinct in southern Britain, such as the red-backed shrike and the wren, have also recently spread into Scotland.

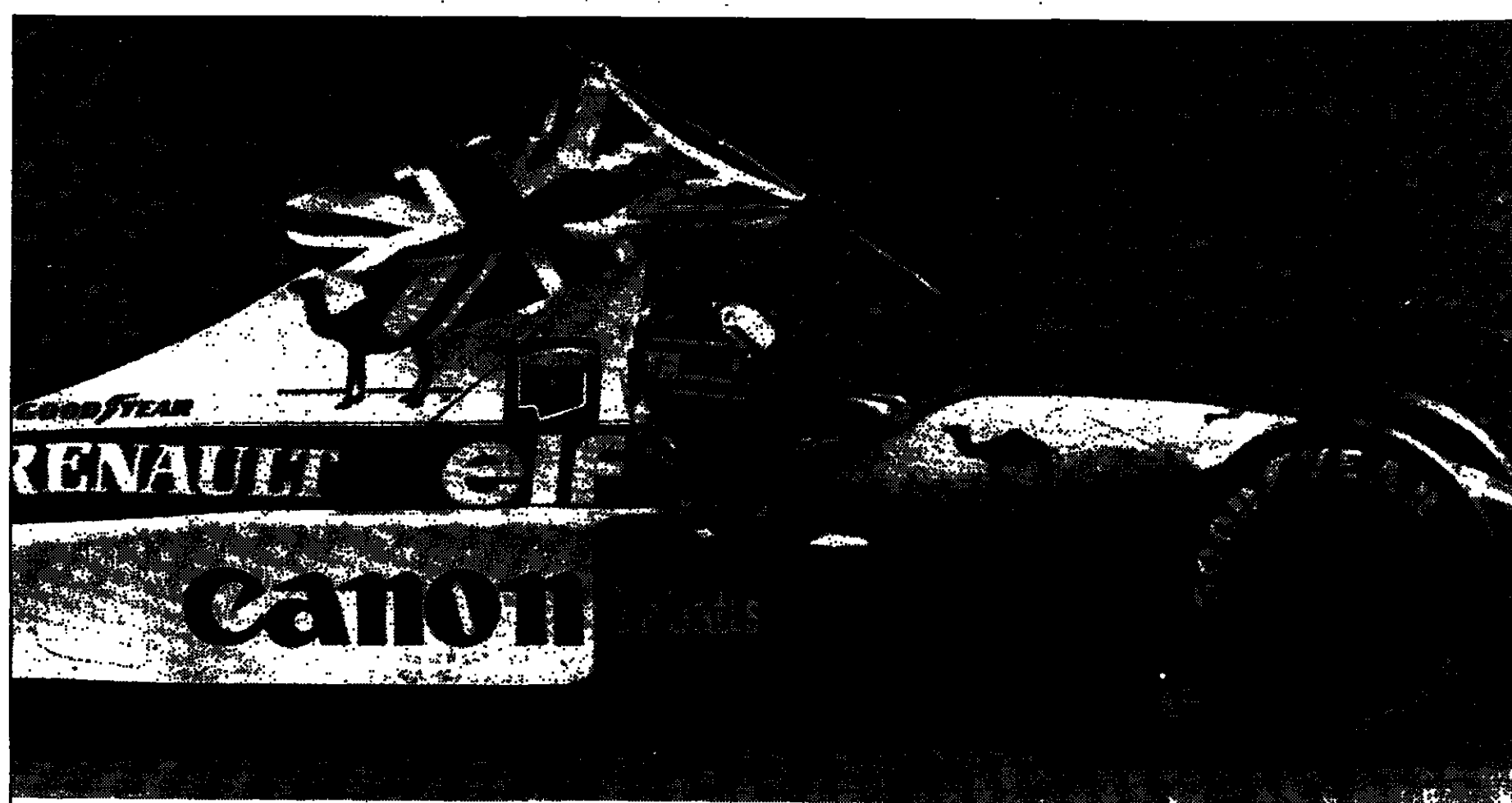
"It is possible that a warming of Scandinavia might make these birds more plastic in their habitat requirements, as the difference between the

two areas becomes less," said Chris Mead, head of the national bird-ringing scheme that the trust organises.

Another ornithologist, Simon Gates, is working on a research project to model the causes of the distribution of British birds, and would like to build in Meteorological Office data going back 20 years to investigate the effects of climate. However, the information costs £15,000, beyond the trust's reach. An application for a grant to buy the data was recently turned down by the Natural Environment Research Council.



Food for thought: a nuthatch feeds her brood. It is one of many species showing a marked move northwards in range



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IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE

EC health experts attack diet advice

ADVICE on diet by the World Health Organisation is criticised by three nutrition experts in a report today.

They say recent WHO guidelines to Western countries are "not warranted by the evidence, impractical and largely unnecessary", and that they are based on a consensual view of healthy eating unsupported by scientific evidence and sometimes opposed to it.

Professor Mike Gibney, chairman of the European Community's working group on nutrition, says that a gap exists between "cautious scientists" and "militantly concerned" health promoters who produce guidelines with a "simplistic and misplaced confidence".

The report, published by the Social Affairs Unit, the right-wing think-tank, says that the WHO is concentrating on the "very well-fed" West instead of Africa. It says that the guidelines are more ambitious than *The Health of the Nation*, issued by the British government in its recent white paper, which was also criticised.

The maximum recommend-

ed cholesterol intake of 300mg a day is "completely arbitrary" says Dr Petr Skrabanek, a Community health care specialist. A 50 per cent fall in coronary heart disease in Western societies occurred with "fat consumption literally static" at 40 per cent of total energy intake, and, he says, The Netherlands has a 48 per cent intake with the highest life expectancy in Europe.

Dr James Le Fanu, a general practitioner with special interest in dietary theory, says Western societies have barely changed their diet, either because they do not understand the advice or will not take it, yet Westerners are more healthy than ever. There is the "most powerful empirical evidence that diet has little or no effect on patterns of disease", his reply to the WHO guidelines says.

Dr Skrabanek berates "totalitarian teetotalers" and says: "A double brandy before going to bed, or a half-bottle of a good wine with lunch a day could be much better preventative medicine than all the cholesterol guidelines combined."

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Despite official denials, Republicans look for overseas victory to lift dismal campaign

Bush seeks to force Saddam into last corner

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration seems determined to provoke a confrontation with Iraq in the next few days as part of its effort to weaken President Saddam Hussein's potential as a disruptive force in the American presidential elections. In a clear change of pace, the administration is encouraging United Nations inspectors in Iraq to demand access to a defence-related ministry in Baghdad.

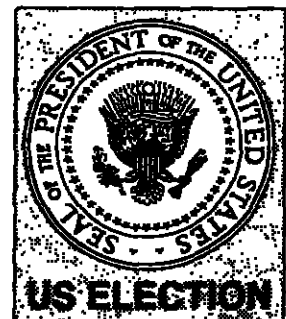
According to American diplomats at the UN, the inspectors will ask today or tomorrow for entry into the military industrialisation ministry, which figured in Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s.

This latest plan, which was

likely to seek the UN Security Council's stamp of approval for renewed hostilities. If Baghdad does refuse access to the inspectors currently in Iraq, a security council meeting is likely to follow within 24 hours. Some UN sources last night suggested that punitive raids could be carried out before the weekend.

The Western allies are also continuing to press the Iraqis to cease their attacks on Shia Muslims in the south of the country. Yesterday there were reports of fierce fighting in the marshes north of Basra between Shia dissidents and Iraqi Republican Guard units. The rebels claimed to have killed over 100 Iraqi troops.

Senior administration figures angrily dismissed suggestions by American newspapers yesterday that President Bush is eager for a showdown with Iraq this week because of the boost it could give the Republican convention. "The suggestion we would shape Iraqi policies for political reasons is dead wrong," said Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary. However, Republican campaign managers in Houston were eager to push President Bush's resolve over Iraq as an example of his foreign policy strengths.



agreed at a meeting last Thursday between Mr Bush and Brent Scowcroft, the White House National Security Adviser, is part of the general allied effort to goad the Iraqi dictator into overreaching himself in his challenges of the UN resolutions that ended the Gulf war. The administration is determined to curb Saddam's defiance of the Western powers.

The *New York Times* claimed yesterday that an Iraqi decision to bar UN inspectors from entering the ministry will lead to air strikes against Baghdad in the coming days. However, Pentagon officials cautioned yesterday against expecting immediate reprisals. A 30-strong American air warplane battle staff was moved on Thursday from Shaw air force base in South Carolina to Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital.

Although America has long claimed that existing UN resolutions provide the authority for punitive action against Iraq, the administration is

Arab diplomats in Cairo said American military strikes against Iraq could destabilise the Middle East and help Saddam. They said that American action could trigger an outpouring of anti-Western feeling in the region and complicate the Middle East peace process.

Yesterday Hamed Youssef, the Iraqi information minister, said Iraq would fight to the last if attacked. He also refused to exclude the possibility that Baghdad might attack Kuwait again.

Most of the military hardware America needs for a strike on Baghdad is already in position in the Gulf region. About 140 American warplanes are based in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. US naval forces in the region include eight ships capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles. The American aircraft carrier, *Independence*, is carrying about 80 warplanes.

Anthony Howard, page 10
Leading article, page 11



Conventional wisdom: Mary Matalin, political director of President Bush's campaign, speaking to the press in Houston before the start of the Republican Convention. Campaign managers pointed to Mr Bush's tough stand on Iraq as an example of his foreign policy strengths

Napalm strikes give White House a weapon

America is unlikely to just sit and watch Saddam intensify his attack on the Shias, writes Michael Theodorou from Nicosia

IRAQI Mig23 and Sukhoi aircraft bombed Shia villages in southern Iraq with napalm, "killing many civilians", according to reports from Iraq yesterday on the eve of a visit to Baghdad by a senior United Nations envoy.

While there was no independent confirmation of the Iranian report, US officials said last week that President Saddam Hussein may be "within days" of launching a large offensive against Shia rebels and refugees hiding in the southern swamps. The officials told American newspapers the US would not stand idly by if this happened.

The Iranian news agency said the air strikes on Shia villages came after a failed amphibious attack on rebels in the Amara area in which more than 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed. The claims follow a damning human rights report by Max van der Stoep, the former Dutch foreign minister, who confirmed last week that fixed-wing aircraft were being used to bomb the Shias in violation of Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Jan Eliasson, the UN emergency relief co-ordinator who

arrives in Baghdad today, will try to persuade Iraq to allow UN guards and aid workers to resume work that stopped on 30 June. If Iraq denies Mr Eliasson access to the swamps because an offensive is underway against the Shias, he will refer the matter to the UN Security Council which has been considering the creation of a safe haven for the Shias, similar to the one set up last year for the Kurds.

Baghdad's treatment of the Shias has become one of two flashpoints for a showdown with the West. The other is over weapons inspections.

The 22-member UN inspection team, which arrived in Iraq on 7 August, has con-

ducted its work in unusual secrecy, declining to say whether it has or will seek access to any government buildings which Baghdad has ruled off limits. The inspectors were due to leave Iraq tomorrow but its Russian leader, Nikita Smidovich, said yesterday they were now awaiting instructions from New York. Observers said the Iraqi leader will claim a victory over the UN if the inspectors leave without searching a ministry.

Iraqi opposition figures have urged Washington not to attack Baghdad unless such a strike is co-ordinated with an insurrection inside the country to topple Saddam, according to Saad Jabr, the leader of the



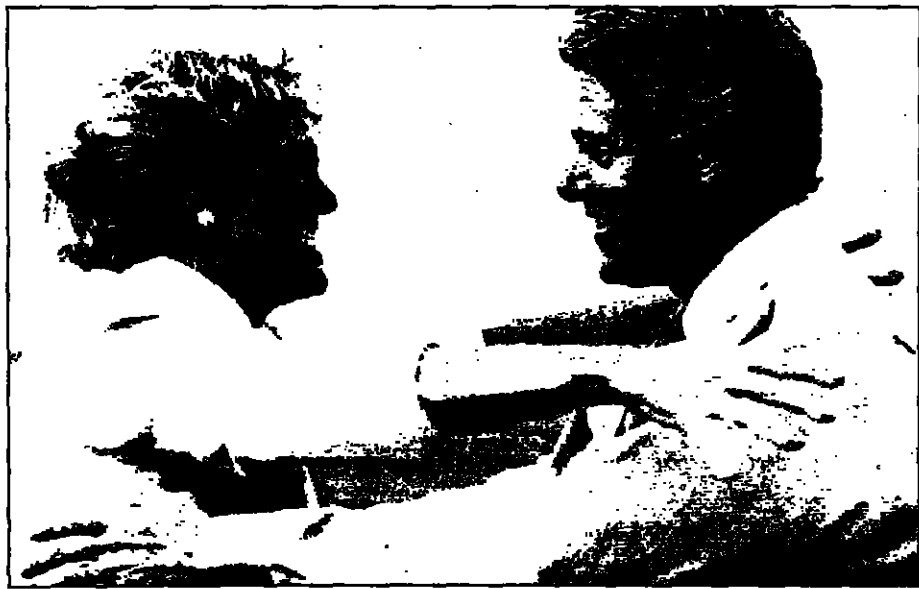
Free Iraq Council. "Otherwise, Saddam will emerge much stronger and more popular with the people. He'll be David against Goliath," said Mr Jabr, adding that there was no indication that an uprising was being planned.

Establishing a safe haven for the Shias would also mean overcoming mainly American fears that Iraq could be carved up into a mainly Kurdish north, Sunni centre and Shia south, the last which could fall

prey to Iranian influence. "My gut feeling is they won't create a safe haven now," Mr Jabr said. "But they may protect the marsh Arabs with air cover and shoot down a few planes to prove they mean business."

The estimated 10,000 Shia rebels hiding in the marshes since their failed rebellion last year are no match for Saddam's offensive, launched in April. The rebels, poorly equipped and with little co-ordination between guerrilla units, are also hampered by having to protect some 200,000 refugees who fled to the swamps with them.

Oil analysts say Saddam's push against the Shia underlines his desire to get his hands on oil fields, there. Iraqi engineers plan to drain the swamps, which would make drilling easier and also create acres of new farms as Saddam strives for self-sufficiency to combat UN sanctions.



Leading man: Bill Clinton, staying ahead of President Bush in the polls, greets Patty Garamendi, a Democratic candidate, on a tour of northern California

President hopes tough stance on Iraq and tax cuts will win votes

Continued from page 1
resurrect tax cuts and one of them, Jack Kemp, the housing secretary, predicted Mr Bush would have "a dramatic announcement to make in his convention speech".

That speech, in which Mr Bush must finally present a disillusioned nation with a compelling case for re-electing him, is regarded as his last best chance to galvanise his dispirited and divided party and turn the electoral tide.

Mr Kemp said he was encouraged when James Baker, Mr Bush's new campaign chief, talked last Thursday about "a lid on government spending and lower tax rates".

With America nearly \$4,000 billion (\$2,094 billion) in debt, and this year's budget deficit approaching \$400 billion, Mr Baker's remarks caused a mini-panic on Wall Street, which believed deficit reduction was the administration's top priority.

The other key battleground is abortion. All last week pro- and anti-abortion protesters clashed outside Houston's

abortion clinics, leading to numerous arrests with more clashes expected this week. Pro-choice Republican women and moderates are still fighting the convention organisers for what would be a divisive floor debate on a manifesto that reassures the party's commitment to outlawing abortion.

Barbara Bush sought last week to placate the moderates by signalling they have a powerful friend in the White House, but Ann Stone, chairwoman of Republicans for Choice, claimed to have lined up four of the six state delegations required to force a debate, with others still possible.

A *Newsweek* poll yesterday put Mr Bush 17 points behind Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee. That represented a slight narrowing of the gap but with less than 80 days before the election it still leaves a mountain to climb. A *Houston Post* poll showed Mr Bush 17 points behind in Texas, his adopted home and electorally the second most important state after California. The

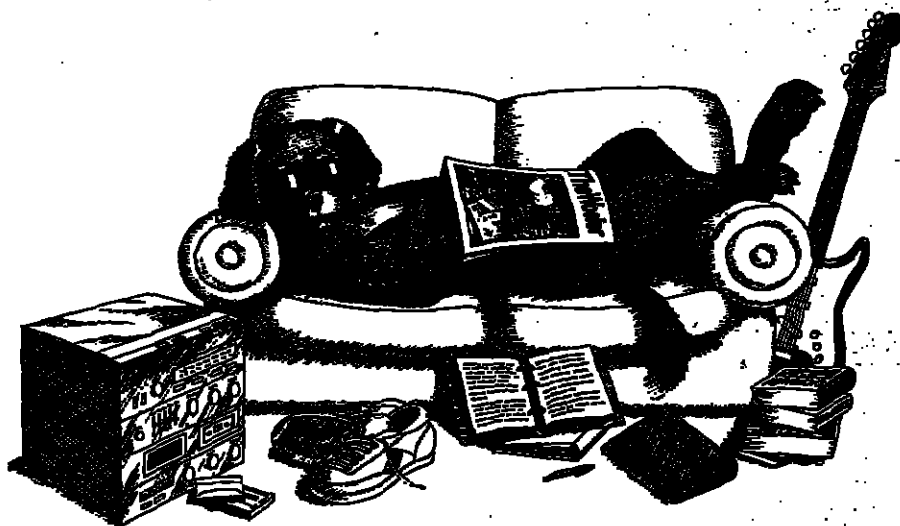
newspaper yesterday damned his first term as "lousy" and a "great disappointment".

Compounding Mr Bush's woes, Lyn Nofziger, President Reagan's former press secretary, claimed his erstwhile boss had considered Mr Bush a "wimp" and chose him as his 1980 running mate for lack of a better choice. Mr Reagan addresses the convention tonight.

A lengthy *New York Times* article portrayed Mr Bush as worn out, tired of Republican desertions. "Frustrated, angry and confused" by all the criticism he is enduring, and annoyed that he had so often allowed advisers to overrule his natural instincts, principally when they persuaded him to accept the 1990 tax increases.

A Washington *Post* poll spelled out the extent of the task confronting Mr Bush in this critical week. Sixty-one per cent said they were worse off than four years ago. Exactly the same number said they had little idea where Mr Bush hoped to lead the nation in the next four.

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Hekmatyar ousted from coalition as UN staff quit Kabul



Hekmatyar: refuses to halt bombardment

MOST United Nations staff withdrew from Kabul amid renewed rocket fire yesterday after the Islamic coalition government in Afghanistan said it had expelled the dissident Mujahidin leader responsible for the bombardment. Only seven UN staff remained in the battered city after three cars were left along the road towards the northern town of Mazar-i-Sharif, from where they are expected to travel to Tarmeh on the border with Uzbekistan.

President Rabbani told diplomats that he had expelled Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the hardline leader of Hezb-i-Islami, last week from the ruling Leadership Council, an uneasy alliance of seven Mujahidin leaders. Mr Rabbani said he had also dismissed Abdul Saboor

Fareed, the fundamentalist Hekmatyar nominee as prime minister, the diplomats said. Mr Fareed ended a visit to Iran on Saturday and was believed to be in Saudi Arabia or Turkey.

Ahmad Shah Masood, the defence minister, ordered his Hezb deputy, Abdul Hakim, to leave Kabul on Friday, Mujahidin sources said. Diplomats said they were waiting for guarantees of safety before leaving Kabul, where hundreds of people have been killed by rockets fired by the renegade Hezb-i-Islami organisation since last Monday.

Last night Mr Hekmatyar pledged to continue his attacks on the capital until his demands are met.

Mr Fareed, the Pashtun prime minister, claimed his dismissal from the largely non-Pashtun government yesterday was a further reinforcement of the ethnic divide. He was nominated to the post by Mr Hekmatyar, who a week ago started raining rockets, mortars and artillery shells into Kabul. The factional war is now more or less official. International

aid organisations say that operating in Kabul is becoming impossible. Several are pulling out.

Officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees may leave, and the International Committee of the Red Cross is holding high-level talks in Geneva to decide future operations.

Red Cross staff yesterday spent several hours in bunkers as rockets and shells pounded buildings around their headquarters. A convoy carrying Red Cross supplies reached the capital from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar on Friday night, after a hazardous 250-mile journey lasting more than two days, saving the hospital from running out of medicines. The convoy was halted by different Mujahidin factions and at

one point it seemed the entire convoy might be seized. This confirms the almost total collapse of order in the countryside.

Hezb-i-Islami yesterday rejected UN appeals to end its bombardment of Kabul and refused to let up in its assault on the airport so that about 200 diplomats and other expatriates could leave by the conventional route. It claimed it was simply defending its positions south of the city from unprovoked government attack.

That claim stretches credibility. There are indications, indeed, that government forces are restraining their attacks on Mr Hekmatyar's positions because they do not want further to alienate the Pashtuns, who have lost power in Kabul for the first time in

more than two centuries. They make up 40 per cent of the population.

Mr Hekmatyar plainly does not have the might to enter Kabul, despite his ability to smash it from a distance. He is directing his forces from headquarters at Char-a-Asyab, seven miles south of the city, and the government could probably scatter him any time it wished. To do so, however, would dramatically widen the conflict.

Nawab Saleem, Mr Hekmatyar's spokesman, said in Peshawar that the regime that took over in Kabul four months ago was controlled by members of the old communist government of Dr Najibullah, the ousted president. America was secretly supporting the new set-up in return for a promise not to

turn Afghanistan into a fundamentalist Islamic state, he said.

This seems to be a feeble justification for what is, in fact, a power battle initiated by Mr Hekmatyar, who is attempting to assemble a Pashtun alliance to wrest control of Kabul from Uzbeks and Tajiks. "The communists are still functioning in Afghanistan," Mr Saleem insisted. "Russian generals are still managing the war, only this time they are supported by America."

Mr Hekmatyar had three conditions for a ceasefire: all Uzbek militia forces must leave the capital; all communists must be removed from the government; and elections must be called. (Additional reporting by Our Foreign Staff)

Kenya base for relief operation

US speeds huge food airlift to Somalia

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICA last night unfolded an ambitious programme for an airlift to Somalia as the United Nations sent a second plane of food into the drought-stricken nation's interior where millions are threatened with starvation.

A 33-member American military team is to arrive at Kenya's coastal town of Mombasa today on board a C-141 cargo plane to lay the groundwork for an American relief operation that aims to deliver 145,000 tons of food to the devastated nation.

The US intends to base its relief operation in the arid, remote northeast Kenyan town of Wajir. Food will arrive at Mombasa, be ferried to Wajir by air, and be flown into towns in Somalia's interior on C-130 Hercules cargo planes. The first flight into Somalia is expected on August 24. The

UN geared up its operation at the weekend by sending its first plane of high-protein biscuits to the starving in the town of Baidoa. In Mogadishu, even as rice, wheat and beans were being unloaded, three people were killed as rival militias squabbled over whose turn it was to guard and unload the shipments. The World Food Programme also sent a second C-130 carrying 17 tons of food to Baidoa yesterday. It aims to increase the number of flights to two a day later in the week and eventually will broaden the airlift to include other towns.

As relief efforts were being speeded, more than 1,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees, rounded up by Kenyan police in Nairobi on Saturday, spent the cold night in an open field without blankets or food, according to officials of

the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The refugees are being held under police guard in the east Nairobi suburb of Embakasi "in appalling conditions", said Panos Mountzias, of the UN commissioner's public information office.

A refugee woman gave birth in the open on Saturday night and Kenyan police guarding the refugees refused to allow UN officials to take away the mother and child, saying only that senior security personnel could do so.

Mr Mountzias said the refugees were not given food or blankets and were only served a cup of tea yesterday morning. The commissioner has urged Kenyan officials to allow the agency to give blankets to the refugees.

The round-up operation continued in the coastal town of Mombasa, where 151 Somalis have been picked up and taken back to the Utunge camp, six miles north of the city. Police said the swoop in Nairobi was aimed at refugees accused of living in the Kenyan capital illegally after escaping from various camps around the country.

Kenyan refugee camps were overcrowded with an estimated 340,000 refugees, three-quarters of them from Somalia, and could not accommodate more refugees, Mr Mountzias said. Last week, President Moi accused some refugees of "ganging up" with local criminals after running away from camps.

An increase in bandit attacks in Kenya's northeastern province, which borders on Somalia, has been blamed on Somali refugees accused of involvement in crime and selling guns from their country to bandits.

There has been little food available in Somalia's markets since four months of vicious fighting erupted in Mogadishu in November, closing the ports and halting imports. Aid experts have said that, once food is readily available on the market, the economy will revive, prices will fall, tensions will ease and the random fighting, looting and banditry that is hampering Western relief efforts and the killing of people will lessen.

Aid workers estimate that 50 per cent of the food reaching Mogadishu is being looted by bandits. The UN has authorised five hundred troops, which are expected to arrive in the capital in the next few weeks to guard food shipments and monitor their distribution.



Staying alive: a mother and child waiting to receive medical attention outside a Mogadishu clinic at the weekend as the West stepped up relief efforts

Lebanese Christian leaders spurn poll

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BEIRUT, LEBANON

BISHOP Nasrallah Steir looked up from his notes and delivered the political bombshell as if it were just another parable inserted in his sermon as an afterthought.

"An election is a noble event, an act of high ideals and importance," said the elderly patriarch yesterday at the Notre Dame church in this mountainous heartland of Lebanon's Christian community. "But the Lebanese should not offer their votes for candidates who are willing to become witnesses to oppression and the violation of human rights."

In most countries, the political views of a white-haired spiritual leader would be of only passing interest. But in Lebanon, with its competing Christian and Muslim sects, the patriarch's call for a boycott could be enough to seal the fate of next week's general election, the first in two decades.

His appeal seems to reflect the attitude of the Christian leadership, from the dominant political clans like the Gemayels and Chamounis, to the former warlords like General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, who have all displayed unusual solidarity in their opposition to the ballot. Henri Lahoud, the latest Christian to join the ranks of opposition figures against the Syrian-controlled vote, declared: "I am withdrawing my candidacy ... because the circumstances make it impossible for a free and fair election." Although more than a third of the two million eligible voters are now threatening to boycott the election, the pro-Syrian government of President Hrawi has insisted it will go ahead.

The results are supposed to provide the country with a new 128-seat parliament, divided equally between Christians and Muslims, which could finally begin to tackle the sectarian power struggle that erupted in civil war in 1975 and which has yet to be resolved. But critics insist that if the polls are conducted while Syria maintains a force of 40,000 troops in Lebanon, the process will be nothing more than a cynical exercise intended to rubber-stamp Syria's domination of the country.

Amin Gemayel, the former president, said that, if the election was allowed to go ahead, "effectively Syria will be able to continue to dominate Lebanon and the next president will be the next century. That is why we must stop it."

Pollution threatens the Arctic

Fairbanks, Alaska: Four decades of Cold war and a ruthless pursuit of nuclear superiority threaten to turn the Arctic into a sewer for poisonous wastes, Robert Gates, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said.

At a special field hearing of the US Senate intelligence committee at the weekend, Mr Gates outlined reports of contamination from the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons-making and testing programmes and nuclear power plants. "The former Soviet Union's attitude towards safety and handling of radioactive materials was, to say the least, lackadaisical from the very beginning of its nuclear programme," he said.

The worst practices, he said, were probably at Chelyabinsk, a plutonium production site in south central Russia where waste was dumped directly into the Techa River until 1951 and into Lake Karachay in the 60s. Although far from the Arctic, Chelyabinsk and other sites have contaminated the north.

Mr Gates said the CIA would assemble a team of scientists with security clearance to release intelligence information deemed for environmental cleanups. They plan to use satellite imagery to track Arctic pollution. (Reuters)

Ties revived

Karachi: Pakistan and the US held a joint naval exercise at the weekend to revive their "military collaboration". It was the first such exercise since the US cut off aid nearly two years ago because it suspected Pakistan was engaged in making nuclear weapons. (AFP)

Riot casualty

Cairo: The police chief and his deputy at Edku, a northern Egyptian town, have been suspended and summoned to Cairo after crowds rioted in the Nile town last week following reports that police had beaten a cattle dealer to death during interrogation. (AFP)

Iran boasts

Nicosia: A hardline Iranian newspaper has praised Turkey's expulsion of three British troops at the weekend. The daily *Abrar* said the latest move would enable Iran to keep the upper hand in its far-east expulsions that began almost two months ago. (AP)

Official quits

Manila: Cesar Nazareno, the Philippines police chief, has resigned over alleged involvement of top officers in kidnappings. President Ramos tried to quash rumours of cabinet feuds by taking ministers on a Manila Bay cruise. (Reuters)

Taiwan's goal

Taipei: A Taiwanese foreign ministry white paper has set rejoining the UN, from which it was removed in 1971 when China joined, as a long-term goal. Taiwan wants to break the isolation caused by its rivalry with Peking. (Reuters)

Peace bonus

San Salvador: President Cristiani supervised the demobilisation of the first of five elite Salvadoran battalions as US and UN officials looked on. The move followed peace accords signed in January after 12 years of civil war. (Reuters)

Peak cleaning

Kathmandu: Climbers littering Mt Everest will soon have to pay for their rubbish to be cleared. Nepal's tourism ministry said each mountaineering team will have to deposit a \$2,000 refundable cleanliness fee from next month. (Reuters)

Drought area needs more help

FROM REUTERS IN WINDHOEK

EIGHTEEN million people in southern Africa need a further two million tonnes of food aid to survive the region's worst drought this century, Charles Howe, chief economist of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, said yesterday.

Figures presented to a conference of SADC ministers here showed that the region had provided about half its food needs this year. An SADC task force was set up in April to distribute drought aid to 18 million people in immediate need. Donors promised food worth \$600 million (£315 million) at a pledging conference in Geneva in June to meet an assessed need in the region of seven million tonnes.

Percy Mangosela, the SADC transport co-ordinator, said member states — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe — had transported 45 per cent of relief supplies themselves. The remainder was shipped through ports in South Africa. Mr Howe said the SADC, due to transform itself at a summit today into the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was drawing up plans to ensure the region was not again caught without strategic reserves of staple foods.

Sudanese orphans join rebels

FROM REUTERS IN NAIROBI

UP TO 3,000 Sudanese teenage orphans who have disappeared from refugee camps in northern Kenya have probably linked up with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, United Nations relief workers said last night.

Kenyan officials said they suspected that the rebels had been in contact with the boys while they were in Kenya, but it was not known whether force had been used to make them return. The orphans were among more than 20,000 Sudanese, most of them homeless children, who crossed into Kenya in June to escape the war in southern Sudan and were put in a refugee camp at Lokichokio.

Kenyan and UN officials joined in an operation last week to move the refugees to a new site at Kakuma, 56 miles south of Lokichokio. They then discovered that up to 3,000 boys had vanished. They are believed to have crossed the border again.

Sudanese government troops have recaptured a number of key centres previously held by the rebels. But Juba, the capital of the southern Sudan, is surrounded by rebel forces, who have been shelling the town.

Russian giants bring bartering thaw to Japan's chilly north

IN THE absence of a peace treaty, Japan may still theoretically be at war with Russia. Japanese and Russian radars continue to monitor each other across the chilly waters that separate Wakkanai on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido from Sakhalin on Russia's eastern extremity.

Yet daily fraternisation between Asia's two most powerful adversaries has become lively in this remote corner of the world. The economics of the relationship are simple: the Japanese want crabs and the Russians want cars.

Each morning two or three Russian fishing vessels dock in the small port at Wakkanai and unload crates of live crabs, some of them 4ft in diameter, to be used as tyres, electrical appliances, underwear and, most sought

Old enemies find friendship in a brisk trade in crabs and second-hand cars. Joanna Pitman writes from Wakkanai

after all, blueberry chewing gum. Yesterday three boats had completed the 38-mile crossing overnight from Sakhalin and a crew of strapping Schwarzenegger-lookalikes were strolling up and down the main shopping street, sending some of Wakkanai's women into fits of giggles and provoking screams of young children unused to blond giants with beards.

"I'm taking back two fridges, a radio cassette player and 300 pairs of tights this time," said Sergei, the captain, whose red moustache was as luxuriant as his shirt was grubby. Speaking only a

little Japanese, his grinning mate asked a bashful shop assistant whether she stocked scented stockings. News of Japan's recent invention, that allows tiny capsules of scented oil to be woven into stocking nylon so that when the wearer moves they release their scent, has spread even to the Sea of Okhotsk.

Yukiko, the shop assistant, was well prepared. A Japanese-Russian dictionary at hand, she explained that scented stockings have yet to make their debut in Wakkanai, but would perhaps like to try on a pair of Donald Duck socks? Sergei



and his friend chortled loudly and wandered off, as Yukiko confided to her colleague that she thought she might have confused the word for "socks" with the word for "nappy".

Back at their boat, six used cars had been loaded, two of them lashed precariously on top of each other at the stern. The cars, dumped by locals in search of flashy new models, can be bought for 20,000 yen

to 50,000 yen (£80-£200) in Wakkanai and, according to Sergei, can fetch 200,000 yen on Sakhalin.

Another crew member arrived at the boat on a gleaming bicycle which he had picked up on a rubbish dump, and on a pole slung across his shoulders he carried six car tyres. He directed the loading of three refrigerators and a couple of washing machines.

A nervous-looking Japanese businessman standing on the shore explained that he paid 15,000 yen for a one-way passage to Sakhalin. "It's my first time, but I hope to make some deals to start importing seafood to Japan," said Junji Takano, eyeing the vessel's oil-splattered deck and then his spruce, navy-blue suit.

"I've brought a bottle of shochu, our Japanese equivalent of vodka, to help things

along on board. I've practised drinking vodka and singing songs with some Russian friends at a bar in Wakkanai," he said. "They are very friendly and I am really not nervous, although some of these sailors are very tall."

The Takano family appears to be setting the pace in Wakkanai for good Russo-Japanese relations. Twice a week, Mr Takano attends Russian lessons in the town hall, and his wife plans to join the Wakkanai housewives' volleyball team when it plays in Sakhalin next month.

"We feel very cosy with our neighbours to the north," he said. "You would never have thought that only a few years ago they were still our enemy. I think they like us because we have a very special word in Japanese for them. We call them 'Russkies'."

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UN likely to find clean-up has hidden camp abuses

By Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent

TADEUSZ Mazowiecki, the Polish politician and special rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, will this week try to piece together the truth about alleged atrocities in the former Yugoslavia. He will want to know if Serbia is applying systematic terror to civilian and military prisoners and if Croatia is pursuing a similar policy. He will also want to find out how many people are being held in the camps, and how many have "disappeared". His mission will be formally ratified by the UN Economic and Social Council today and his report is to be presented to the London peace conference beginning on August 26.

The UN Human Rights Commission has avoided singling out Serbia for blame, if Mr Mazowiecki produces a clear account of Serbian abuses, that will deal any attempt to recognise a "greater Serbia". Also, the evidence he gathers could provide the basis for a war crimes trial.

Small wonder that the Serbs are ready to reject his report as biased because he is a Catholic activist. They believe he will be prejudiced in favour of the Catholic Croats. A Belgrade representative in Geneva said: "Our impression is that the report of the special rapporteur has already been drafted to justify the allegations in the resolution."

But those close to Mr Mazowiecki emphasise that he will also be looking into alleged Croatian abuses and is taking seriously reports of ill-treatment from Capljina and other Croat-held Bosnian areas.

The real danger, however, is that both Serbs and Croats will clean up their camps

before Mr Mazowiecki arrives. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, is said to have ordered the release of all women and men over 60. He has even conceded that "some guards may have overstepped the mark in terms of distributing food".

Mr Mazowiecki may thus be confronted with a rather tidy scene, most of the prisoners who have been worst treated having been hidden away. The first thing he has to establish is whether the detention centres are really concentration camps, as the Bosnian government claims.

Most abuses seem to have occurred in civilian transit camps set up as part of the "ethnic cleansing" operation rather than in prisoner-of-war camps. When the Serbs drove Muslims out of eastern and northern Bosnian villages, many civilians were corralled into makeshift centres. Since late April there have been stories of rape and random torture at such camps.

How general these abuses are has still not been established. It is almost certain that such incidents are now relatively rare, if only because camp administrators are nervous about international scrutiny. Mr Mazowiecki's job will be partly to dig out reliable versions of abuses that occurred two or more months ago. This will not be easy. It will also mean determining who exactly has been running the camps and therefore bears responsibility for war crimes.

Sadly, even if Mr Mazowiecki's mission may lead to more or less humane treatment in the camps, it is unlikely to bring about their complete abolition.

Matthew Parris, page 10



Serbs offer Muslims choice between exile and jail

Muslims freed at last still cannot go home. Tim Judah writes from Trnopolje

PUSHING bicycles, clutching their wives and carrying grubby plastic bags, columns of Muslim former prisoners trudged their way out of the once feared Trnopolje detention camp. The barbed wire has come down, the fencing has been rolled up and Trnopolje's days are numbered. But its inmates are paying dearly for their freedom.

Everyone now leaving the camp has signed a document declaring that they will "voluntarily" leave Serb-controlled northern Bosnia. In response to world outrage over the revelation of detention centres run by all sides in Bosnia, the Serb leaders in the north of the republic are conducting a rapid clean-up of their camps.

Prisoners not deemed a potential threat are being released in exchange for signing what amounts to their own "ethnic cleansing" form. Others — potential fighters, genuine prisoners of war or those who can be exchanged for Serb prisoners and hostages held by Muslims and Croats — are being gathered into internationally acceptable camps. Camps such as the infamous Omarska from one mine are being run down or maintained only as interrogation centres.

The scenes over the weekend at Trnopolje were of delicious joy, utter squalor



Family reunion: a former prisoner of war hugs his wife and son after being released by the Serbs last week

and complete desperation. Pink-faced with happiness, Ermina, 24, clung to her husband, Jasmin. "I haven't seen him for three months," she said. Unfolding the docu-

ment in which he had committed himself to leaving his homeland, Jasmin said: "We'd rather stay, but..." Of 3,000 Muslim internees in the camp less than a week

ago, 1,000 have been released over the last few days. "I want to get out of the camp," said Teofil, who had been in Trnopolje for more than three months, "but I

don't want to leave my home. Three days ago they started saying we could sign these forms and we would be free. It's the only way to leave."

A group of Muslim men

from the devastated and empty area of Kozarac said they had not yet signed the forms because they had nowhere to go. All denied Serb claims that they had been on Bosnian army reserve lists and shrugged when asked if they would like to fight the Serbs. "Yeah, it would be 'click' if we talked about that, wouldn't it?" said one man using his hand to imitate a pistol pointed at his head.

Outside men queued with buckets for their rations while others cooked on campfires or on stoves set up in the filthy tent city into which Trnopolje's prisoners have overflowed.

It is a different story at Omarska, which barely a week ago may have held 3,000 prisoners in the most brutal and sometimes murderous conditions. Omarska now has a mere 174 internees, most of whom seem only to have arrived in the last two weeks. They had not been given the option of freedom in exchange for pledging to leave their homes.

A Serb policeman said that Omarska was now an interrogation centre. To a barked order, a line of prisoners trotted into the positively glistening canteen. Prisoners who have been released say that food was scarce in Omarska before the clean-up operation and that executions were common. Prisoners in Trnopolje also said that conditions had improved significantly over the last few days, ever since foreigners had been given access. "We're only here because we're Muslims," lamented one man. "It's not my fault, I didn't ask to be a Muslim."

Letters, page 11

Hogg turns the pressure on Belgrade

DOUGLAS Hogg, a Foreign Office minister of state, said yesterday that it was important that the August 26 peace conference in London on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia should expose all participants to international pressure.

The Serbs, he said, would be told that they would remain world pariahs unless they reverse their ethnic cleansing policies. Those invited to what threatens to be the ultimate talking shop include the United Nations, all EC member states and the European Commission. The United States, Russia and China, as the other three permanent members (along with Britain and France) of the UN Security Council, have been also invited. Canada and Japan, both members of the G7 group of the main industrialised democracies, are included, too, and so are Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, countries bordering the former Yugoslavia.

The Czechs are on the list because they now chair the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Also invited is the secretary-general of the Islamic conference countries, together with Turkey.

Serbs are to be told that they would remain world pariahs unless they reverse their policies, Robin Oakley writes

The key question is how

many of the leaders of the six former Yugoslav republics will attend the London conference. None had replied by last night, although formal invitations only went out via Lord Carrington in Brussels on Friday. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb president, refused to attend the Brussels negotiations and Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian leader, stayed away from the final session. He has been refusing to meet Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, on the basis that he is a war criminal. Mr Milosevic is said to be undecided whether to come to London or to leave the meeting to Milan Panic, the prime minister of the rump Yugoslavia which Britain does not recognise.

Britain will press on with the talks, whoever proves willing to attend, partly because

the EC, constantly chivvied by the Americans for not doing enough, has to be seen to be doing something, and partly because ministers believe that there will have to be talks before there is any hope of a ceasefire. Most EC countries remain unwilling to send in any peacekeeping troops until the combatants show more readiness to talk.

The agenda for the London conference will include how best to safeguard human rights in the war zones and to protect convoys and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid. Participants will also focus on how to take the peace process forward and on what needs to be done to tighten UN sanctions, designed to persuade the Serbs to reverse their ethnic policies and give up their "war gains".

A Foreign Office source said last night that "the important thing" was to persuade all those in the former Yugoslavia that they have an interest in talking to each other.

Major acts, page 1

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PAID	GROSS %	NET %
£25,000 or more	Annually	7.90	5.92
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	7.50	5.62
£1,000-£9,999	Annually	6.25	4.69
£100-£999	Annually	2.25	1.69
£25,000 or more	Monthly	7.63**	5.72
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	7.25**	5.44
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	6.08**	4.56
£100 or more	Annually	1.90	1.42
Maximum permitted under TESSA rules	Annually	10.40% TAX-FREE	
£100 or more	Annually	9.30% TAX-FREE	
£2,500 or more	Annually	10.40	7.80
£5,000 or more	Monthly	9.93**	7.45
£2,500 or more	Annually	9.60	7.20
£5,000 or more	Monthly	9.20**	6.90

New Accounts no longer available	Quarterly	9.27	6.95
New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	9.38	7.03
New Accounts no longer available	Quarterly	9.27	6.95

New Accounts no longer available	Annually	10.40% TAX-FREE	
New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	2.20	1.65

New Accounts no longer available	Annually	8.54	6.40
New Accounts no longer available	Monthly	8.29	6.22

£25,000 or more	Annually	10.85	8.14
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	10.45	7.84
£25,000 or more	Monthly	10.34**	7.76
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	9.98**	7.48

OTHER ACCOUNTS: All other accounts are reduced by 0.40% gross (0.30% net). Further details available on request.

*Interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers and is subject to the usual 20% tax deduction. Otherwise income tax will be deducted in the basic rate, but may be rebated by non-taxpayers. Net rates are illustrative only and assume taxation at the basic rate of 20%. **The gross monthly rates, when compounded, equal the gross annual rates shown above. Rates may vary.

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French file charges over illicit waste

Chasseignant Authorities in this northeastern French town have charged three people with importing waste products from German hospitals to be dumped or incinerated at illegal sites.

Michel Chasseignant, the finance minister, had asked the customs authorities to begin systematic searches to stop such imports, but the Chasseignant prosecutor's office hinted at the existence of an international traffic in dangerous waste. However, it said that there would be "important developments" in the next few days. (AFP)

Leader resigns

Moscow: Oleg Esayan, the ethnic Armenian prime minister of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani enclave claimed by Armenia, has resigned. A "state defence committee" is to rule the region until the fighting there ends. Tass said. (AP)

Drivers to pay

Bonn: Germany is to go ahead with a levy on autobahn users by 1994 to help pay for upgrading its loss-making railways and to keep roads from becoming overburdened. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said. (Reuters)

Body found

Hanover: The body of Carl-Christian Wilkenberg, 18, who had been in line to inherit millions of Deutschmarks, has been found engulfed in concrete at the site of a new building for an undertaker at Rethen, near here. (Reuters)

Georgian troops and rebels turn health resort into battleground

FROM OLEG SHCHEDROV IN SUKHUMI

RESIDENTS of the resort of Sukhumi fled by sea yesterday to escape fighting between Georgian and rebel Abkhazian troops, in which at least 20 people have been killed.

Georgian and Abkhazian leaders pulled their rival forces from the centre of town but sporadic gunfire rang out despite a ceasefire agreed on Saturday. Tass reported that a Russian paratroop regiment had arrived to evacuate 1,700 holidaymakers from defence ministry sanatoriums in the Abkhazian capital. Three days of fighting have made Sukhumi, a health resort whose

beaches are shaded by palm trees, into a battleground. The threatened slide towards civil war has confronted Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, with his biggest problem since taking power in the former Soviet republic in March. Georgy, a businessman, one of many local people waiting to be picked up by fishing boats and taken to safety, said: "This will be another Afghanistan. The trouble will go on for years."

Guram, 35, said: "I am Abkhazian myself, but my wife is Georgian. I don't know which side to take."

Angry passengers end Russian airport strikes

FROM MARY DZIEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PASSENGER fury and a tough line from government negotiators brought an early end to Russia's first national air traffic controllers' strike yesterday.

The controllers, who were demanding pay rises, had gone on strike at 10am on Saturday after two rounds of unsuccessful talks with Aleksandr Ruskol, the vice-president.

Reports from provincial cities said angry passengers besieged air traffic control towers to force the controllers back to work. Several airport managers apparently declined to hold back the crowds who found their way to the control rooms and harranged and even beat the controllers until they agreed to end their strike.

At Pulkovo airport outside St Petersburg, controllers were reported to have erected barbed wire to fend off a crowd of frustrated passengers. The manager of Bykovo airport near Moscow was said to have been sacked by the Russian government for failing to prevent the strike at his airport. Staff at other Moscow airports ignored the strike.

The strike shut down 50 of Russia's 130 airports, including St Petersburg. Most international flights were unaffected, but the Finnish airline, Finnair, said some of its flights were cancelled. Military personnel were brought in to man control towers at several airports. Elsewhere, civilian planes were diverted to military airfields.

Abkhazia, a region of western Georgia which grows tea, fruit and tobacco but is chiefly renowned for its beaches, effectively declared independence last month with a parliamentary vote.

Trouble flared on Friday when Georgia sent in troops to hunt the kidnappers of Roman Gventadze, the interior minister, and of other officials. Bands of armed Abkhazians, a Caucasian ethnic group outnumbered by Georgians, "hazia" itself, have fought against what they regard as an invading army.

Georgian and Abkhazian officials yesterday renewed talks on restoring order to the city as their forces withdrew to create a buffer zone. But isolated bursts of machinegun fire rang out across the city, where Georgian patrols were stopping local cars in an apparent search for arms.

In one incident, I saw a patrol pursue a car, shoot out its tyres and kill the driver with a shot from 20 yards.

While Abkhazia's leaders tried for compromise, some nationalists appeared bent on defiance. "We must play for time and wait until support comes from north Caucasian forces and Russian Cossacks," said Alexander Achba, an ethnic Abkhazian member of the local parliament.

He appeared to be referring to the forces of southern Russia's breakaway Chechen region, whose leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, has condemned Georgian "aggression" and put his own troops on alert. Mr Dudayev supports Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted Georgian president and foe of Mr Shevardnadze. (Reuters)

China lifts ban on Oscar-listed films

China has lifted a ban on showing two films by the controversial director Zhang Yimou that have impressed viewers and critics around the world, the Peking Review said. Audiences in the northern port city of Tianjin can now see Zhang's *Judou*, nominated for an Oscar last year.

The magazine said that showings of *Judou* and *Raise the Red Lantern*, an Oscar nominee this year, would begin nationwide in September as a sign of reforms and liberalisation in the arts. Zhang's films, though widely available on video for China's elite, were originally banned from mass distribution because they offended the censors.

Jordan's King Hussein, 57, will leave for the United States today for specialist treatment of a minor haemorrhage in his urinary tract, the royal court said.

About 10,000 people held a candlelit graveside vigil at Elvis Presley's Memphis home, Graceland, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of his death.

Alann Steen, the journalism professor who was held hostage in Beirut for nearly five years, has taken a new teaching job at Casper College in Wyoming.

About 2,000 people took part in an illegal rally in the eastern German town of Rudolstadt to

commemorate the death five years ago of Rudolf Hess, the last of the Nazi wartime leaders, police said. The demonstrators, most of them young, shouted Nazi and racist slogans, witnesses said.

President Mobutu of Zaire has pledged co-operation with arch-rival Etienne Tshisekedi, the opposition stalwart elected prime minister at the weekend by the national conference guiding Zaire to multi-party democracy.

Erika Wildan, 44, the eldest daughter of the former East German leader Erich Honecker, with whom he had little contact, will take him in if he is released from prison for health reasons, the Hamburg-based *Bild am Sonntag* reported.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, will visit Moscow on Wednesday for two days of discussions centred on the resumption of Middle East peace talks, officials announced in Jerusalem.

Mila Mulrony, 39, the wife of the Canadian prime minister, Brian Mulrony, broke an ankle in a volleyball game played to raise money for an AIDS hospice in Ottawa.

Greenland has launched an official Santa Claus Post Office, inaugurated by the Danish prime minister, Poul Schluter.

If Tony Benn had won

Peter Riddell traces the turning points of politics to their source

James Thurber once wrote a delightful American civil war fantasy, "If Grant had been drinking at Appomattox". What if? Speculation is a perennial parlour game, inspiring a recent Radio 4 series, and Thurber's story was itself a *New Yorker* lampoon on a ponderously titled collection in 1931 called *If It Had Happened Otherwise*. This included contributions from Winston Churchill, Harold Nicolson, G.K. Chesterton, and Hilaire Belloc. The Thurber fantasy, however, inspired Nelson Pelsley, an American political scientist of an original and Anglophile character, to edit an exploration in "might have been" land.

The Pelsley book, *What If...?* (produced in America in 1982 by the Lewis Publishing Company), ranged from "What if Napoleon had not sold Louisiana?" via "What if Karl Marx had drowned in a cross-Channel ferry accident?" to "What if Robert Kennedy had not been assassinated?" The only strictly British contribution came from the late Philip Williams on "What if Hugh Gaitskell had become prime minister?" Williams, as well as the biographer of Gaitskell and concluded that a Gaitskell-led Labour government would have overcome most of the difficulties — devaluation, incomes policy, Rhodesia, withdrawal from east of Suez and reform of the House of Lords — that so bedevilled the Wilson government in the late 1960s. But the Williams view is too rosy-tinted, since any Labour government would have been buffeted by the unions and markets.

The snag with such speculations is that too much turns on one man or event. None the less, as David Butler argues in his *British General Elections since 1945* (Blackwell, 1989), "In at least two post-war elections the outcome was, almost certainly, determined by events during the three weeks of the campaign and in at least four others there was a movement of votes that transformed the margin of victory."

So how might the history of the past 20 years have turned out if different decisions had been taken at key moments? The first fork in the road was in 1974, when Edward Heath rejected advice and delayed the election by a month. Lord Prior wrote in his *A Balance of Power* that, "To this day I am convinced that the three weeks' delay in calling the election was crucial". Lord Carrington is less certain, but admits in his *Reflections on Things Past* that, "At the time I thought we were hanging on too long, and I said so". An earlier election might have produced an overall Tory majority, which, in turn, might have forced a resolution of the issue of union power. Labour would have had to reform itself earlier. The Heathite ascen-

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

dancy in the Tory party would have been confirmed, with Margaret Thatcher a largely forgotten middle-ranking member of the cabinet. A second turning point was in September 1978, when James Callaghan decided against holding an election when Labour was in with at least a chance in the polls. Denis Healey recalls in his *The Time of My Life* a conversation he held with Lord Callaghan then: "What weighed most heavily with Jim was the general view of our organisers that we could not expect more than another hung parliament if we held the election in the autumn. He was sick to death of the continued compromises required for our survival as a minority government. I think he would rather have lost than be condemned to a repetition of the previous three years." In the event, hanging

The first fork in the road was in 1974 when Edward Heath rejected advice and delayed the election by a month

on over what became the winter of discontent led to a decisive loss the following May. Another hung parliament might merely have postponed the reckoning by a few months or a year for Labour. Nevertheless, a failure to win outright could have led to a Tory coup against the Thatcher leadership. But, as with the timing of the election in February 1974, the main impact may mainly have been on the timing of efforts to tackle the power of the unions, for tighter monetary control and curbs on public spending had already started in 1975-76.

More decisive may have been two party elections. If Tony Benn had won half a per cent more votes in the deputy leadership contest in September 1981, and defeated Denis Healey, then Labour might have disintegrated. Many more MPs might have joined the SDP, and others would have left politics. The SDP might then have been on course to replace Labour. The mould of British politics might then really have been broken. As it was, that vote marked the low point, though Labour's recovery did not really start until after its defeat in 1983.

Similarly, in November 1990, if Margaret Thatcher and her campaign team had been more active, she might have won the support of the four more Tory MPs needed for outright victory on the first ballot. She would have remained prime minister, though badly wounded. The Tories' shifts on the poll tax, on Europe and on public spending would not have occurred. A Thatcher-led government might not have won an overall majority in a general election. So the biggest "what if?" concerns those handful of Tory MPs. If they had voted differently, Neil Kinnock might now be prime minister.

Gerald Kaufman explains why he is no longer among the audience of Radio 3

A musical turn-off

birth to a donnish joke. An Oxford professor, on receiving a letter which invited him to give a talk about his recondite speciality for a fee of three guineas, promptly wrote back asking to whom he should make out his cheque.

Radio 3, as it developed predominantly into a music programme, continued to aim at elevated standards. Now it is plunging down-market. Each weekday the station opens with a two-hour miscellany, *On Air*. News presentation, of the blandest local radio station would not descend, is interspersed with comment of surpassing banality. A Prom world premiere, we were told this week, "promises to be a unique occasion". What else could a unique premiere be?

In the evenings a counterpart, *In Tune*, offers musical excerpts linked by more aimless verbiage. "How many k's are there in Jack-knife" an

announcer asked last Tuesday, for no discernible reason. Interviewing the estimable conductor Sir Edward Downes, this same announcer began with the summons, "Ted, are you there?" Can anyone imagine the old Third Programme daring to address Sir Adrian Boult in like manner?

It may be argued that, even though such chatter can be irksome, it is the music that really matters. It is the music, however, that is the real problem. With droning gossip, aimless interviews, uninformative headlines, news "from the travel front" and sundry other nonsenses, the music has to be squeezed into brief segments: short overtures, odd movements extracted from longer works.

Brian Kay's *Sunday Morning* last week provided 14 items, only one lasting longer than eight minutes. Tuesday's *On Air* comprised 13 snippets, only one lasting

longer than 10 minutes. Almost 40 per cent of Radio 3's output now consists not of structured material but of patched-together sequences, a counterpart to *Your Hundred Best Tunes*. There is a great deal to be said for *Your Hundred Best Tunes*, which gives much pleasure in its proper place on Radio 2. Radio 3, however, is supposed to be about something else: about excellence and about education.

I should have thought that Radio 3's new controller would know all about excellence. A music critic of high repute, Nicholas Kenyon was responsible last summer for constructing a Mozart bicentenary season on the South Bank that was one of my life's most memorable musical experiences. It is lamentable that, whether driven to compete on its own terms with the forthcoming commercial Classic FM, or simply anxious to make his own personal mark with what a BBC

spokeswoman last week called "the new, lively Radio 3", Mr Kenyon is allowing much of one of Britain's most precious cultural assets to degenerate into junk radio.

The point about Radio 3 is that it is not necessarily meant to be easy. It should, of course, seek to please its listeners some of the time, at any rate. It should also aim to stretch them. Radio 3 ought not simply to immerse audiences in a warm bath of familiarity. It should enable them to experience and, with luck, perhaps to love, works they would not otherwise hear. Without Radio 3 I would never, for example, have learnt to cherish first the superb Grand Septet and then many other works by Franz Berwald.

I y much hope that Nicholas Kenyon will soon return Radio 3 to the high standards of which he is demonstrably capable. Until I am sure that he has, I intend to stop exposing myself to the infuriating triviality of its morning and evening sequences. Instead, I shall lug out my cassette-player and console myself by listening on tape to works which I first heard on Radio 3 as it once was.

Down and out in Houston

Anthony Howard on a president looking for a miracle



congressional elections was the best thing that ever happened to Truman.

To judge by his reiterated complaints against the present, and seemingly permanent, Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress, George Bush feels much the same today. But it is a measure of the restricted regard in which he is held as a politician that nobody expects him to be able to pull off a similar sort of trick.

Truman, after all, was a gutsy alley-fighter, brought up in that hard and harsh school of politics, the Prendergast machine of Kansas City. The trouble with Mr Bush, a product of Luton Academy and Yale, is that he conveys the unfortunate impression of never having

had to fight for anything in his life: even the presidency was handed to him by Ronald Reagan on a plate. Hence, no doubt, the peevish, almost petulant, tone that has crept increasingly into his voice as things have gone against him.

Few doubt that the president is a dedicated public servant, but that may be part of the difficulty. For public servants are different beings from politicians, and one of the weaknesses of the American political system is that it tends to mix up the two types. When Bush was still vice-president, I remember having dinner at the home of an American ambassador. He proceeded to wax eloquent on his sense of thankfulness that his country was at last going to have a president who

would require absolutely no "on-the-job training". As he ticked off the "various worthy qualities" — knowledge, application, quite exceptional experience — that Bush would bring to the White House, my heart began to sink. None struck me as having any relevance to the essential elements in a politician's make-up — the sense of gusto, the competitive instinct, the zest for showmanship.

Mr Reagan possessed at least some of those attributes, if only because he, rightly, saw politics as a performing art. Mr Bush has none of them, a limitation never made clearer than when the preppy tries to become one of the boys. Was there ever anything so cringe-making as his boast just before his

debate with Geraldine Ferraro in the 1984 campaign that he was "looking forward to kicking a little ass tonight"? Only a true nerd, in political terms, could possibly have produced a phrase like that.

Of course, eight years on, Bush does have the weight of the presidency and the apparatus of the federal government behind him. It is bound to make some difference, not least because his opponent, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, hardly has a political heavy-weight. Here, though, the promised three television debates of the campaign are almost bound to be bad news for Mr Bush. For one thing, they immediately put Mr Clinton on an equal footing with him, and, for another, an incumbent always has far more to lose from such encounters than a challenger. Poor Jimmy Carter discovered that in 1980.

It is natural enough that the Republicans this week should have chosen to fix their minds on the Truman precedent of 44 years ago. Yet the Carter analogy, although it can bring naught for their comfort, is not only much closer in time but far more apt in comparison. In 1980, as in 1992, the United States found itself with a leader who had failed to measure up to the demands of what in happier times was known as "the imperial presidency".

Under Bush, as under Carter, the White House, far from being a "bully pulpit" of constance and hope, has become the echoing anvil for the nation's discontents. That is a grim position from which to have to fight back and one that yields a chance perhaps only to a natural-born politician with exceptional gifts of energy, stamina and resilience.

Whatever may be true of James Baker — a contrasting case of a true politician masquerading as a bureaucrat — few can detect those qualities in the president himself. Maybe that explains why even the elaborate model elephants on display all over the town have a slightly weebone look. For the moment, their very presence inconspicuously conjures up a vision of bleached bones and broken tusks.



...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

The atmosphere is subdued, here at the Yugoslav pavilion in Expo '92. In the intense Seville heat argument is best avoided, but the poster at the entrance advertising a visit today by a group of "refugee children" from Bosnia reads oddly. Some mistake, surely? Haven't they just escaped from Yugoslavia? Won't it prove difficult to coax them into the hapless Yugoslav staff, marooned and left to run things, look exhausted and strained. Apparently they've been told their exhibition can stay so long as they keep a low profile. The restaurant serving Yugoslav cuisine is not doing much business. There are no queues at the pavilion door.

Queues are the virility symbol at Expo. The longer your queue the more of a hit your national exhibit is shown to be. Nations vie with each other for the production of effects ever more rare and strange. For Monaco you queue for four hours to see (apparently) some kind of underwater dramatic performance in a vast tank. The Spanish pavilion has not just moving pictures but seats that move while you watch the moving pictures. For this you queue twice. The New Zealand pavilion has a simulated rocky sea-cliff, with cascades, real seaweed, wave sound effects and a robotic penguin that shuffles backwards and forwards on a rock, its eyes flashing. And that's just outside the pavilion while you queue. Within are kiwi fruit cocktails.

Kuwait shows you photographs of birds dying in oil slicks and sheikhs turning the first sod on construction sites, holding their spades a little gingerly and waiting, no doubt for Filipino labourers to come along and finish the job.

The Baltic states have clubbed together to mount an exhibition which, inexplicably, includes a display of flies and cockroaches preserved in amber. The Russians include amid their real-life satellites and rockets a luminous stall manned by an elderly gentleman who explains, with infinite courtesy, the imprint made by moon-cycles on the human foetus — by which, as has been proved in Siberia, we may discover from our birthday and birthplace the dates when we are likely to become depressed.

Less obscurely, the United States has sent its Bill of Rights — the real thing, vegetarians will be disappointed to find it is written on the belly of a lamb — plus a video explaining individual liberty, in which Dennis Skinner will be infuriated to learn he appears, waving his fist in parliament, as perhaps an extreme example of what a free society will tolerate.

The Japanese, whose modesty begins to rival the Americans', have woven their queue through a series of plastic beacons on each of which a new facet about Japan is written. These take the form of tactical comparisons between Japan and Spain — rice eaten per head of population, steel production, etc — the comparisons to the advantage of Japan. After an hour or so of shuffling through this, the Span-

ish visitor reaches the exhibition itself, head bowed in shame. Here he learns that Europe was discovered by a Japanese expedition in 1543.

Touché! After all, the excuse for Expo is that 1992 is the 500th anniversary of Columbus's "discovery" of America. It is also the 500th anniversary of Spain's expulsion of the Jews, a fact that has caused a spot of bother down at the Israeli pavilion. The King of Spain made a special fuss of them when he visited. The Cubans, meanwhile, in whose post-office-1955-style pavilion a mood of defiance rules, make do with an old photograph of the king shaking hands with Castro, cementing relations with Spain.

Which is where the British pavilion scores. I'm disappointed to have to report that the thing is a complete triumph. The water-fall-wall is a modern wonder: even the food in the restaurant's good: our tour guides, Paddy and Anna, both British, spoke proper colloquial Spanish and charmed their audience; and the main attraction is the best show in town. It is a little play whose plot is a love affair between a young British man and a Spanish girl from Seville, but whose underlying theme is British technical mastery in the world. The man is played, mimed, danced and sung by a flesh-and-blood actor every thing else — the woman, the subtitles, the stage set, is done by moving holograms and laser projection onto invisible screens. It's brilliant.

And our queue is longer than the Germans'!

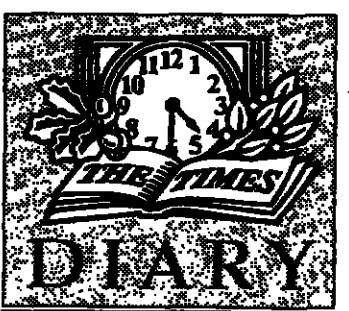
Fraying round the Fringe

ORGANISERS of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, who can always be relied upon to produce a good-looking political row, have excelled themselves this year. The 1992 Fringe has barely started, but dissent has already broken out over next year's Scottish cultural jamboree. Directors of the Fringe are divided over who should replace the present chairman, Dr Jonathan Miller, next year.

Hot favourite for the job is Kirsty Wark, the Scottish television presenter who has hosted *The Late Show*. Wark is supported by a coterie eager to continue the tradition of choosing a chairman with a practical background in the arts. The English film producer David Putnam and Scottish director Bill Forsyth are also in the running.

There is, however, an emerging groundswell of opinion in favour of a political figure to replace Miller, who is unable to attend this year's Fringe because of other commitments. Names being mentioned include Sir David Steel and Charles Kennedy.

Christopher Richardson of the Pleasance Theatre, which is running shows by Eleanor Bron and Miles Kingdon, says the Fringe, as one of Lothian's biggest earners, should have a politician with a bulging address book at its head. Connoisseurs of Fringe controversies will recall that last year Richardson lambasted Frank Dunlop, the former director of the Edinburgh International Festival, after he branded the Fringe "a third-rate circus". Richardson has written to David Mellor inviting the minister to pay special attention to the Fringe when he visits the Scottish capital during the next three weeks.



place that promotes young talent and yet the conditions are appalling — Eleanor Bron is having to share a Portakabin and some of our venues don't even have windows. We desperately need a chairman who can make hard-headed business decisions."

Producers of *Walking on Sticks*, the Australian comedy playing at Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms, were depressed to discover their opening show coincided with the press conference launching the Fringe. But performer Sarah Cathcart, oblivious to an audience in single figures, gave her all, prompting one woman to tell her "My dear, it makes me proud to be Australian." The lady in question was Janet Holmes a Court, widow of the late Australian financier Robert and owner of a string of West End theatres, who was in Edinburgh to watch her son Peter perform in the *Oxford Review*.

Smoke signals BEING master of an Oxbridge college is not all high table and vintage port, as Professor Gabriel Horn can testify. He has been delayed in moving into the Master's Lodge at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, after beating Germaine Greer for the post in July. The problem is the whiffs of vindaloo and chicken madras that are permeating the lodge from the kitchens nearby and offending the

sensibilities of the new master. Horn, an eminent zoologist who specialises in monkeys, has ordered an investigation. This has resulted in staff exploding tiny smoke bombs in the kitchen and lodge to help find leaks. The sight of smoke billowing from the lodge has caused great amusement at high table and is livening up an otherwise quiet summer. Greer, who promised to improve the food at Sidney Sussex if appointed master, is no doubt eating her words. After her defeat she described the college as the "dullest in Cambridge".

Watch the birdie COMPETITORS in the US PGA championship may be interested to know that the *Survival Special* team at ITV have finally cracked one of life's great mysteries — where do missing golf balls get to? Tomorrow's programme "Birdies on the Green" reveals many of the balls are taken by birds. Magpies and crows are the main culprits but



even oyster catchers have adopted golf balls, mistaking them for eggs. Star of the show is likely to be the magpie at the Rolls-Royce in Monmouth, which delights in picking up balls from the green and dropping them into the holes.

Glasnost works both ways. Professor John Glynn of the Canterbury Business School, who has been running a six-week business course for former Russian military officers, was surprised to hear one of them praising the beauty of the Cornish coastline. Glynn was of the understanding that none of them had visited Britain before. The Russian admitted this was the case and muttered "periscope". He had been captain of a Soviet nuclear submarine and had spent many peaceful hours spying off the English coast.

Going the distance

SEBASTIAN COE, now Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, is likely to be the least popular MP at the Tory party conference this October. While his holidaying peers have been piling on the pounds with a surfeit of chianti, tapas and pastisseries, the former Olympic gold medalist has continued his regime of a daily workout at the House of Commons gym and is set to make the coveted title of Britain's fittest MP, previously held by William Hague and Paddy Ashdown.

Coe, who failed to make his maiden speech before the recess because of the arrival of his first child, says he is not aware of envious glances cast in his direction in the gym by fellow MPs. "I am too hard at work to notice. But I find these days much of my exercise is done weaving my way around drinks parties," he says modestly.

NatWest bank customers who were among those to find wrongly attributed items on their credit card statements last week can take comfort from the fact that they are in excellent company. One Gold Card customer who received a bungled statement was Lord Alexander, chairman of NatWest. To add insult to injury, the computer, unable to cope with his title, addressed him as Mr Lord.

JOHN LEE 1.50



BUSH THREATENS FORCE

President Saddam Hussein, with typical malevolence, has used the Yugoslav distraction to step up the indiscriminate slaughter of Shia insurgents and civilians in the marshy south of Iraq. Daily sorties have been flown in a possible prelude to a full-scale offensive against the rebels. Now Britain, France and America are about to issue Saddam with an ultimatum: unless he halts his genocide the allies will close the airspace over southern Iraq and shoot down aircraft attacking the Shia population.

The Bush administration has been itching for a confrontation with the Iraqi leader. Outrages against the Shias present it with an arguable case; but not so the increasing fiasco of UN weapons inspection. Playing cat and mouse with the UN inspectors, Saddam has moved from lack of co-operation to obstructiveness and physical intimidation. The Americans have responded as Saddam hoped by walking into his trap. They have protested and blustered, issued warnings, threatened military action but held off until now because at the last moment the Iraqis have given way.

Each time Saddam has touted his confrontation as a propaganda victory. His intention is clear. Sooner or later either the UN will find further inspections impossible or Washington will be goaded into a punitive air strike. Whatever happens Saddam believes he wins. And if he draws out the confrontation long enough, unity in the security council may begin to crack, especially if Third World members can be persuaded to see a pattern of Western bullying.

If Washington sends in the jets to "enforce" inspection somehow, innocent civilians will inevitably be killed, rallying Iraqi opinion around the government. Saddam can play the martyr to Arab audiences while relishing the likely disarray in Western ranks, where there is little enthusiasm outside Washington for a new Gulf war. In any event, further inspection becomes impossible, as any documents — if

they have not already long been shredded — will be buried amid the rubble.

Two things have happened which could deny Saddam such a Machiavellian triumph. First, sanctions are suddenly beginning to bite, aggravated by Saddam's ruthless but counter-productive executions of merchants he accused of exploitation. Vital imports from Jordan have fallen to a tenth of their previous level as Amman also enforces the UN rules more rigorously. Secondly, Saddam's attempt to quell the south has given Mr Bush a *casus belli* for which no new UN authority is needed: Resolution 688 prohibits the oppression of Iraqi minorities. Protecting lives is a cause that might go down well with the voters and with other Muslim nations (and with Iran), he reasons, and shooting down fighter planes over the southern marshes involves less risk to civilians than the precision bombing of government ministries.

America has its assets in place: the carrier Independence is bringing 80 more fighters to join the 100 already in the Gulf. Large scale exercises are about to begin in Kuwait. And interdiction could be in force within hours. The effect might even be to raise the morale of the cowed Shia population in their battered cities. This, rather than the futile bombing of ministries in Baghdad, would strengthen the opposition to Saddam and could tip the scales among the Iraqi military, who must be extremely wary of any new battle with the West.

So far the West has been unable to rally and encourage opposition to Saddam. It has often been cynically indifferent to the sufferings of the Shia south, apparently unwilling to help any movement where Islamic fundamentalism is dominant. Now Mr Bush believes he has a way to hurt his old foe and impress his electorate. If he is lucky, the Iraqi opposition could be emboldened to strike at the source of the terror which stalks their land. And the fall of Saddam could yet win Mr Bush another term.

LONG FRENCH SHADOW

As the CBI reports another decline in consumer spending, Norman Lamont and John Major are waiting, Micawber-like, for something to turn up — preferably the economy. But there is something else that could turn up. Like speculators and investors in the world financial markets, British ministers are starting to gamble on the French referendum on Maastricht.

Whichever way the vote goes on September 20, there will be dangers for Britain, not least because John Major holds the EC presidency until December 31. If the French vote no, the Maastricht Treaty would certainly be abandoned; and with it the prospect of a European Monetary Union in the foreseeable future. As a result, the present ERM, which international investors now view as a prelude to full monetary union, would come under enormous market pressure. The prime minister would be in an acute predicament. He could use the ERM's collapse as a heaven-sent chance to pull out, or he could fight the markets and defend sterling's parity against the mark.

To do the latter he would probably have to crush all hopes of economic recovery with Italian-style interest rates of 15 per cent. He would also have to thrust Britain into the heart of the Euro-federalist project at a time when even the French were backing away. The Conservative party would be unlikely to accept such consequences for long. Whatever his personal feelings, Mr Major would be forced to abandon the ERM. The struggle to create an open, market-oriented, unburdened Community to replace the Delors vision could then begin.

But what if the French vote yes? This outcome, which still appears the more likely, would have short-term attractions for the government but would still pose great risks for Britain and its economy in the longer

term. The present malaise in the British economy, even the fading of the spending boom after the election, can partly be explained by the Danish vote on June 2. Until June 2, many investors in the financial markets were convinced that the Maastricht Treaty would be ratified, that European Monetary Union would happen and that sterling would be just another name for the German mark. On June 2, sterling was near its post-election high in the ERM, the stock market was just off an all-time record and the City expected a cut in interest rates.

If the French vote in favour of Maastricht, the financial collapse that followed the Danish no vote could be substantially reversed. By the end of September, sterling could again be strong, the stock market rising and the City again talking about Britain undercutting German interest rates.

The price to be paid for the financial markets' favour would be a wholesale endorsement of the Maastricht Treaty by John Major, both as British prime minister and as EC president. Mr Major would immediately be expected to steer ratification through Westminster, encourage Germany to overcome its well founded doubts about the treaty and help Denmark to reverse its vote.

If Mr Major succeeded in all this, the markets would reward Britain with lower interest rates and a strong pound, at least in the short term. But if he failed, the threat of a "sterling crisis" would loom again. And he would have suffered a political reverse of some magnitude. In the knowledge of these uncertainties, Mr Major cannot begin to design his Maastricht strategy until he knows the news from France on September 20. That is when his real dilemma starts. He must remember that Britain's constitutional independence is too important to be sold for a point off interest rates.

RATES RETURNING

Since the election it has suited ministers to treat local government finance as the sleeping dog of British politics. In its poll tax incarnation, the creature had been a ravenous pit bull. The new council tax, in comparison, was a docile grey-muzzle which would not harm a fly. But suddenly the sound of a menacing growl has been heard in the land again. Poll tax wants one final bite. In the recession-ravaged South-East of England, falling house prices mean official house valuations for the council tax are out of date and thus bound to be received as inflated and unfair.

The council tax was invented to take the financing of local government back from the per-head basis of the poll tax to its previous per-house basis. But to save political face, one of the reasons why the poll tax was a "good idea" had to be incorporated into the council tax. Thus a personal per-head element was kept, by basing the tax on an average occupancy of two people per dwelling and allowing single-person households a reduction. Similarly, the basis of the property value the government chose for the new tax could not simply be a return to the old rating system, because ministers had rubbished the rates in their efforts to sell their poll tax panacea.

Rateable value was a notional figure. It was fine at doing the job it had to do, giving an indication of one house's worth relative to another in the same neighbourhood. It said nothing about comparative values over long distances, and nothing at all about actual market rents, which is what it originally referred to. But assessing rateable value as an arbitrary fraction of a property's income-earning potential, and divorcing it from any absolute property value such as current market price, turns out to have

unexpected merits when the property market is as sick as it is.

The valuations in the South-East of England were tied to April 1, 1991. In the South-east, house prices have fallen since the appointed date by (depending on the area) 10 or 20 per cent. People will be taxed — or at least feel they are being taxed — on property they no longer have. Clearly the council tax was designed by politicians who believed house prices could only go up, never down.

House prices are easily upset by factors which have nothing to do with property as such. The fall in prices in the South-East results largely from the high rate of interest on mortgages, which is to do with maintaining the value of the pound in the exchange rate mechanism. Notional rental, the theory behind the old rating system, would have been much less susceptible to such recessionary changes; just as company dividends are less temperamental than share-capital values.

The government cannot just bring back the rates. It can move in that desirable direction without admitting it, however, by ignoring the pressure for an updated revaluation of house prices. Rates were based on a fiction: on what houses would have earned in rent if they had all been available to let, at some unspecified time in the past. Council tax should be based on a similar fiction: on what a house might have sold for on an arbitrary date, April Fool's Day 1991.

In the long run, the absolute size of that valuation would, like a rateable value, have nothing to do with anything in the real world. The figure could just as well be quoted in points as in pounds. But its relative size, compared with other properties, would tell councils all they needed to know to raise revenue fairly. And in all but name the rates would have been welcomed back.

Jury's 'right to know' of defendant's previous convictions

From Mr Marc Living

Sir, J. R. Spencer argues ("Jurors' right to know", August 13) against the "irrational" rules preventing the prosecution from giving evidence of a defendant's previous convictions. It is said to stem from a "pitiful" lack of confidence in the ability of a jury to weigh evidence.

Much the same sort of argument could be used to allow the prosecution to give hearsay evidence, statements made by witnesses who do not wish to be cross-examined, or even evidence of the heartfelt belief held by the police sergeant of the guilt of the defendant.

Where previous convictions are relevant — i.e. where they amount to showing that a particular defendant has a known modus operandi for example by showing that he habitually commits a particular crime in a similar way — they are already allowed to be used as evidence.

Mr Spencer, however, seems to want evidence of general bad character to be introduced. What he does not, and cannot, say however is how such evidence is relevant to deciding whether the prosecution has proved that this defendant committed this particular crime, at the time, and in the manner alleged.

The dangers inherent in such a course are exemplified by the Berkowitz case. As a defendant, the law presumed him, at all times, to be innocent of the charge of burglary until proven otherwise. The jury decided that the prosecution had not proved its case and therefore acquitted Mr Berkowitz of burglary (report, August 12).

I fear that what some "reformers" want is that the police and prosecution should bear a lower burden of proof vis à vis previously convicted defendants than for defendants of good character. Such a two-tier system would be a fundamental blow to the rights and liberties of the English people.

Yours faithfully,
MARC LIVING,
3 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4A 3AL.

From Mr Adam Clapham

Sir, In many of the recent cases of wrongful conviction it has transpired that the first enquiries made by the

police are directed to known criminals likely to have committed the crime under investigation. Indeed it is probably the first trick of the trade taught to police officers — and very sensible too.

The problem arises when the wrong criminal is in the dock either because a genuine mistake has been made or because evidence has been fabricated, suppressed or tailored to fit. Surely it can only lead to more wrongful convictions if such "innocent" criminals have their previous records made known to juries before a verdict is reached.

As foreman of a jury at the Old Bailey about three years ago, I and my fellow jurors experienced considerable difficulty in reaching a consensus. Eventually we did return a majority guilty verdict. However I am convinced that we would not have tested the evidence nearly so rigorously had we known the defendant's previous record which was made known to us only at the end of the case.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM CLAPHAM,
254 Alexandra Park Road, N22, August 13.

From Mr David E. G. Getty

Sir, If in the judge's view knowledge of a previous conviction would assist the jury in its deliberation to a greater extent than those deliberations would be prejudiced, then the conviction is admissible.

It is clearly not the case that a conviction for domestic burglary makes a defendant more likely to have committed an offence of violence and judges may only allow evidence of previous convictions to be given where, put simply, there is something strikingly similar about the two cases.

The judge may also allow evidence to be given of the defendant's convictions if the defendant challenges the good character of a prosecution witness or adduces evidence of his own supposed good character.

It is human nature which allows the juror to be influenced by knowledge of a defendant's past, whether or not the juror is a "bigot, moron or redneck". The fact that magistrates are also protected from this influence

shows that no disrespect is intended to the juror.

If the juror is, as J. R. Spencer claims, capable of weighing "all the evidence", the judge presumably should also allow hearsay, opinion, conjecture and rumour to be placed in the crucible since these also would be weighed and weighed correctly. The inadmissibility of previous convictions allows each case to stand or fall on its own evidence.

One has only to imagine the house of cards which could result from one wrongly secured conviction to realise that the existing scope of admissibility of previous convictions is quite generous enough to the prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GETTY (solicitor),
9 Boxgrove Close,
Beetham-on-Sea, East Sussex,
August 13.

From Sir Michael Kerr

Sir, I have often felt, as recommended by J. R. Spencer, that judges should have a discretion, in extreme cases, to inform juries of the criminal records of defendants even when the scenario falls short of the strict requirements of the "similar facts" doctrine.

I once had a trial of a man who had over 100 convictions for cheque frauds, forging signatures or endorsements or passing cheques in false names. The prosecution's case on this occasion seemed unanswerable, and I wondered what his defence would be, which he was conducting himself.

This became clear when he went into the witness box and was given a printed card to take the oath. He then said that he could neither read nor write and asked that the words should be read to him so that he could repeat them. He maintained his illiteracy skillfully, obviously with considerable experience, throughout his cross-examination, gazing uncomprehendingly at cheques held upside down when he was asked to look at them. His defence was mistaken identification by a bank clerk and he was duly acquitted.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KERR,
10 Peterborough Villas, SW6,
August 13.

will more than cheerfully contemplate leaving my house empty.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. BLANC,
33 Kings Drive, Westonzoyland,
Bridgwater, Somerset.

From Mr Brian H. Thomas

Sir, I solved a problem of unsold vacant property and homelessness some years ago by giving possession of a substantial property in Newhaven to an unemployed family unit of couple and child and brother-in-law, moving south from the north to find employment, in whom I had confidence.

Following exchange of contracts, regular payments were made to build up a deposit until completion of sale took place with the aid of a building society loan. No interest was charged. The two breadwinners did not take long in finding employment.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN H. THOMAS,
11 Royal Crescent,
Brighton, East Sussex,
August 11.

More positive public expenditure would allocate unused public land to accommodate them, where they could settle, raise their children and create their own employment.

The creation of a new DSS category for the "voluntary unemployed" would ease the strains on bureaucracy, and on the tempers of the millions for whom the fiasco of "jobseeking" is, in present circumstances, utterly futile.

Yours faithfully,
GILL BARRON,
The Old School House,
High Bentham, North Yorkshire,
August 10.

ment is directly encouraging large and unnecessary business mileages. Companies acquiesce in this because it also reduces their National Insurance contributions on car benefits, and it makes a total nonsense of the Chancellor's professed "green" stance, as my own company has strongly argued in the past.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF BECQUE
(Director),
Leasecontracts plc,
Lauriston House, Pitchill,
Evesham, Hereford and Worcester,
August 10.

The nightmare scenario that your articles give of publishers selling fewer and fewer copies of a novel, paying more and more, and continually raising the price to compensate, is simply not so. Whoever provided this information is ignorant of the publishing process and all its sophisticated rights and serial sales, cost controls, market research and sheer expertise.

Bad publishers go to the wall, good ones prosper, exactly as in any other manufacturing business. Anyone who doubts the sheer energy of the book trade should visit the annual London Book Fair, or better still the enormous Frankfurt Book Fair.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP JOSEPH
(Chairman), Books Etc.,
122 Charing Cross Road, WC2,
August 12.

Women's place in Muslim society

From Dr Charis Waddy

Sir, When researching my books about Islam and Muslim women I quickly learned that none of them wanted to be championed as an oppressed minority by yet another superior and ignorant westerner.

I cannot tell what motivates Matthew Parris ("Still the world's outcasts", August 10; letters, August 13) to aim yet another blow at the sensitive relationships between us and Muslim neighbours. There is agony and heartbreak in Muslim communities as in others: not least among Muslim women fleeing in Bosnia or starving with their children in Somalia. The reasons are not the stereotypes of prejudice which Matthew Parris alleges.

The arrogance of presuming to "begin" the long-standing debate on women's status in Islam would be laughable if it were not so damaging.

Yours truly,
CHARIS WADDY,
12 Northam Road, Oxford,
August 13.

From Mr Alun Bati

Sir, Vilifying a religion for what is essentially social practice is not helpful. The position of women in Muslim countries is no different from their status in almost any underdeveloped society.

The more equal status of women in the West has only been achieved relatively recently and is still not complete.

Christian Switzerland gave women the vote in 1971 at the federal level. In Buddhist Japan women struggle to be recognised in the workplace and even the word for "wife" (*kansai*) means "inside the home". In Hindu India women are still sometimes forced onto the funeral pyres of their dead husbands.

Equality of status for women can only be achieved through better education (for both sexes) and improved economic conditions. And equality doesn't necessarily mean uncovered heads. If a woman wants to cover her head why shouldn't she be allowed to?

Matthew Parris surely recognises that in the West women continue to be exploited, through pornography and the like, in ways which some might say are more sordid and abhorrent than anything found in Muslim countries.

Yours faithfully,
ALUN BATI,
Azabu Towers 304, Tokyo,
August 12.

From Mrs Mary Alafouzo

Sir, To a European white woman born in a relatively enlightened Muslim country, Matthew Parris's article brought back sad memories of the oppression which I had witnessed for much of my youth in Egypt in the 1930s and 1940s.

Perhaps it is true that behind the tolerance of western liberals lurks an insulting racism, as Mr Parris contends. But to think that we know better is also racism, indeed cultural imperialism, by many Muslim men. Sadly, the majority of them believe it is our society that has got it wrong and that our men allow their women a freedom which deflects them from the straight and narrow.

It seems to me, therefore, that it will take a very long time to liberate the women of Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. But can't we at least do something now for the ones in Bradford and Tower Hamlets who are subject to English law?

Yours sincerely,
M. ALAFOUZO,
1 Victoria Drive, SW19,
August 12.

'Mr Polly'

From Mrs Hilda Moorhouse

Sir, The History of Mr Polly is a GCSE (i.e. Ordinary level) text rather than an A-level text (Miss Mary Darlington's letter, August 8). I have taught both literature examinations for 40 years for a variety of examination boards, and have never taught Mr Polly for A level.

Yours faithfully,
HILDA MOORHOUSE,
41 Buryfield Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
August 8.

Where there's muck . . .

From Mr S. J. Williams

Sir, Your report (August 13) on the Royal Bank of Scotland converting old currency to mulch makes me wonder whether this is the end of amateur gardening as we know it, as plants grown under this system will have a financial inducement.

Yours etc.,
S. J. WILLIAMS,
Kings, Sticking Green,
Clavering, Saffron Walden, Essex,
August 13.

From Mr Peter D. Hingley

Sir, Presumably the redundant banknotes will be advertised as particularly suitable for cash crops.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER D. HINGLEY,
10 Chapel Road,
Faversham, Kent,
August 13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

JP 11 66 1550

OBITUARIES

JUDGE JOHN SIRICA

Judge John Sirica, a once obscure United States district court judge whose unswerving conduct of the momentous judicial aspects of the Watergate scandal of 1973-74 contributed to the resignation of President Nixon, died on August 14 in Washington at the age of 88. He was born on March 19, 1904.

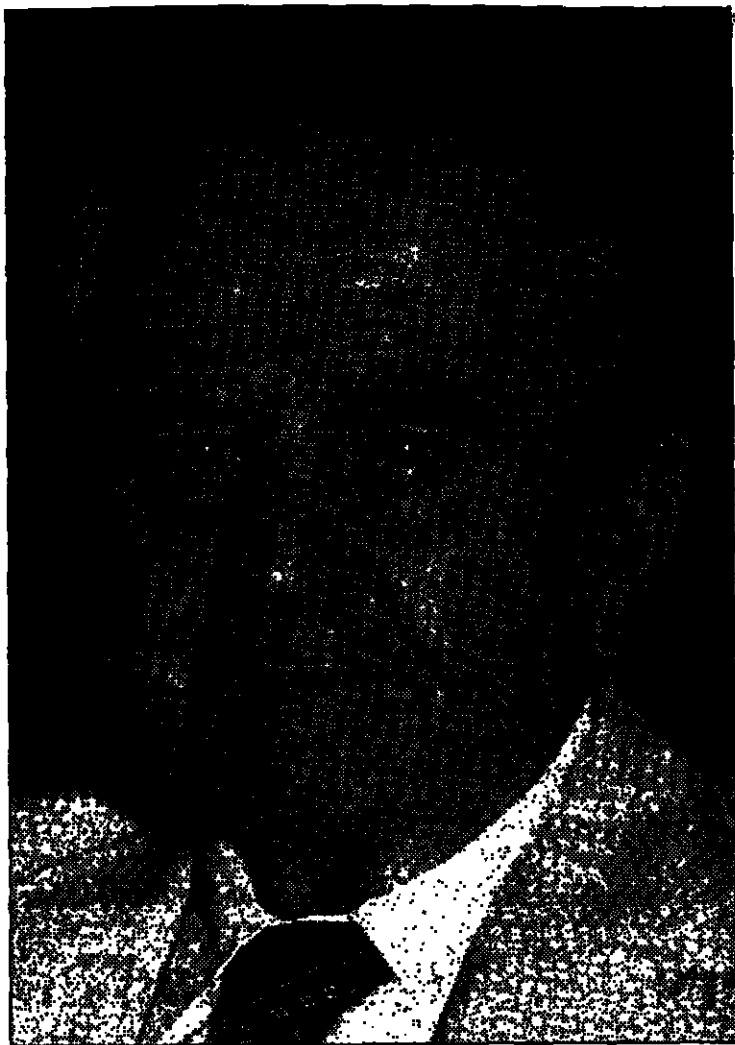
JOHN Sirica came to be known as the "Watergate Judge". His role started and finished in the scandal as a trial judge. But in between it had soared to historic heights unsuspected of so lightly trained a jurist.

His landmark ruling, in the enforcement of subpoenas for President Nixon's tape recordings, that the courts — not the president — must decide what is, or is not, evidence, came to be upheld by the Supreme Court. It was based less on the precedent than on the simple commonsense tenet that no man is above the law.

Many in America credited Sirica with a key role in "breaking" the case — even while President Nixon was about to be inaugurated for his second term. As chief judge for the District of Columbia he had assigned himself the trial — "The First Watergate Trial" — of the men who had unlawfully entered and placed electronic bugging equipment in the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Building in Washington.

Sirica shocked the jurists during the proceedings by expressing disbelief of defendants, counsel and even prosecutors. He occasionally took over the questioning. His conduct was criticised by lawyers, and died in appeals, but all his rulings were upheld and even commended by appellate courts.

One defendant, James McCord, subsequently wrote in March 1973 to the judge that others, higher up in the Nixon administration were involved. It was a bombshell. Sirica gave the remainder punitive sentences — up to 40 years — with



promises that their co-operation with congressional and criminal investigations would lead to reductions. All except G. Gordon Liddy complied. Again, Sirica's action was criticised, this time as coercive, but no appellate court undid his work.

Once it was revealed that President Nixon had tape-recorded his White House conversations during the Watergate conspiracy, Sirica granted a subpoena to the special prosecutor requiring their production as evidence. Mr Nixon argued they were privileged. Sirica ruled that it was for the court to decide after *in camera* inspection of their contents.

When Mr Nixon dismissed the special prosecutor, Sirica gave a notable address to the investigating Grand Jury assuring them that their work could not be interfered with. Following surrender of the first tapes of Mr Nixon, Sirica ordered a special court hearing into reasons why some were missing — a process that produced the disclosure that a crucial conversation had been obliterated. This hearing brought the high and mighty into his court, and Sirica let them know whenever he was unimpressed with their testimony.

The year 1974 brought the climax. The Grand Jury handed up indictments for obstruction of justice against Mr Nixon's closest advisers. The same Grand Jury, in an unprecedented action, asked Sirica to pass on its special report of evidence to the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, which was then considering resolutions calling for the impeachment of President Nixon.

Sirica characteristically held another public hearing before passing the final briefcase to the House Committee. He was not yet done. Now the special prosecutor asked him to enforce court subpoenas against Mr Nixon for yet more tapes, which were needed, this time, for the main Watergate trial. Sirica assented, and Mr Nixon resigned shortly after producing tapes that revealed he had himself been party to the cover-up from the outset.

It remained for Judge Sirica to preside over the main Watergate trial. He did not comment when finally passing sentence on those found guilty.

John H. Sirica was the son of an Italian immigrant barber who settled in the national capital after trying his hand in other parts of the country. He made several attempts at law school there before qualifying at Georgetown University. He served in private practice and was a federal prosecutor before President Eisenhower nominated him to the Federal Bench in 1957.

He became known as "Maximum John" for his relentless imposition of severe sentences on those convicted before him. He was held to be a conservative Republican in both law and politics — an unlikely man to bring down a Republican President. But he would have no truck with deceit.

He had been a lightweight boxer in his youth, and it showed in his pugnacity, which was usually good natured. So did the direct speech of his background. His most frequent interjection in court was "Look, let's get on with it."

Sirica was once accused of not being an intellectual. "If it means writing books and that kind of thing, then I'm not," he responded. "But a great intellectual does not make a great trial judge. A man who's been a trial judge is a better judge of human nature than Professor X of Harvard, who's probably never been in the well of a courtroom. I've been a prosecutor, a defence lawyer, a counsel to a very important investigation on the Hill. I'm a realist as opposed to a theorist. Appeals court judges don't have to shoot from the hip. They have the leisure to think, to decide. We have to make decisions in a split second, whether to sustain or overrule an objection."

Sirica's one regret was that the key figure in the Watergate scandal, President Nixon, was never brought to court. He felt that justice had been ill-served. "He should have stood trial," he wrote in his memoirs. "No matter how great his personal loss, Nixon did manage to keep himself above the law."

The strain of the Watergate proceedings took its toll on Sirica's health. In February 1976, while speaking to a law school alumni group, he collapsed with a heart attack. Recovering, he returned to the bench with a full caseload, but went into semi-retirement as a senior judge in October 1977. He had been on the bench for 20 years. In 1984 he underwent a triple coronary bypass operation.

He leaves a widow, Lucile, and three children.

HARRY ALLEN

Harry Allen, Britain's last official hangman, has died in hospital at Fleetwood, Lancashire, aged 80. He was born on November 5, 1911.

HARRY Allen performed nearly 100 executions and assisted at 100 others before capital punishment for murder was abolished in 1965. He never relinquished the title of official hangman, staying on the Home Office active list because the death penalty remains in force for treason and piracy.

Allen, a lifelong supporter of capital punishment, carried out two of the hangings that finally turned public opinion against the death sentence. In 1953, he executed 19-year-old Derek Bentley, convicted of the murder of a policeman shot by his 16-year-old accomplice, Christopher Craig, who was too young to be executed. There is a campaign for Bentley to be posthumously acquitted. The other controversial execution was that of James Hanratty, convicted of the A6 murder despite doubts about the prosecution evidence.

Allen approached executions in a completely matter-of-fact manner. "It's just another job. I'm the man to do it. I took it on out of a sense of duty," he once said. On his return from honeymoon in 1963, he went straight to Bristol to carry out an execution. He was the same jolly Harry on his return, his wife said.

Allen always wore a bowler hat and a suit for executions and would say, if asked, that he was a solicitor or a doctor. He would steal a look at the condemned man in the exercise yard. "It was crucial to know the height and weight for a quick and painless death," he said. From the moment Allen entered the condemned man's cell until the trap was opened was about 11 seconds. Allen was always astonished how calmly most met death. One or two would say something — usually, "God help me" or "God forgive me". Allen executed three women.

On August 13, 1964, he executed Gwynne Evans at Strangeways Prison, Manchester. Evans's partner, Peter Allen, was hanged at the same time in Liverpool by the assistant executioner. They were the last death sentences carried out in Britain.

Allen retained professional detachment, believing that responsibility for who should die was not his. Rather, his job was to make the execution as quick and painless as possible. However, he said: "Since the rope was scrapped, discipline has gone right out of the window." As a Christian, he



felt that there was much value in the teaching of the Bible of an eye for an eye.

After working as an apprentice engineer and a lorry driver, Allen gained the job of hangman in 1938. He had applied to be a prison officer, but was offered the post of executioner and given a week-long course. His first execution was as assistant to Thomas Pierrepont, when his fee was three guineas. In 1956, he succeeded Pierrepont's nephew, Albert Pierrepont, who died on July 10 — as the country's chief hangman. When the death penalty was abolished for murder, he ran a series of public houses with his second wife, Doris. Allen, who retired to Fleetwood, is survived by his wife and two children.

BILL RUSSELL

Bill Russell, jazz historian and record producer, died in New Orleans on August 9 aged 87. He was born in Canton, Missouri, on February 26, 1905.

BILL Russell was the single most influential figure in the revival of New Orleans jazz, that began in the 1940s. He kindled interest in the subject in his thought-provoking contribution to the 1939 book *Jazzmen* by Ramsey and Smith. He furthered it by helping to rediscover and later record the pioneer trumpeter Bunk Johnson, and he consolidated it through the series of recordings of other pioneers he made for his American Music record label from 1944 to 1957.

Russell William Wagner was born in Missouri, and as a teenager travelled to Chicago to study classical violin playing. He took further lessons in New York in 1927, before training as a teacher at Columbia University in 1929. Here he started to compose, and showed considerable promise. He joined an avant garde touring company, the Red Gate Shadow Players, who played many of his compositions between 1934 and 1940, mostly in a ferociously modern style that owed much to Schoenberg. It was at this point that he changed his name, telling colleagues that there was room for only one Wagner in the world of classical composition.

Hearing the pioneer drummer Baby Dodds in Chicago in the 1930s, Russell was captivated by traditional jazz, and started a parallel career as a dealer in early jazz records. His interest developed into friendships with jazz pioneers, including Jelly Roll Morton, who became a lifelong obsession. Russell disproved much of the mythology about the spontaneous improvisation of jazz through close analysis of Morton's written scores.

In 1942 Russell helped to track down Bunk Johnson in

New Iberia, bringing him to New Orleans to record for the first time. Subsequent recordings were issued on Russell's American Music label, first as 78 rpm discs, and later as LPs, which in true avant garde spirit were pressed in vinyl of many colours. The musicians recorded included Johnson, George Lewis, Kid Thomas, Wooden Joe Nicholas and Big Eye Louis Nelson, all legendary pioneers of New Orleans music. Russell's erudite sleeve notes defended even the most primitive of this music as "a living demonstration that sincere simplicity is the secret of all that is great".

In the 1960s, Russell, who had settled in New Orleans, helped set up what became Preservation Hall. He became a nightly visitor to the scruffy building at 726 St Peter Street, listening to the jazz, and talking to the thousands of visitors who passed through. In 1967, Lars Edgren persuaded him to take up the violin again and play with the New Orleans Ragtime orchestra. Russell toured widely with the band, welcoming the opportunity to escape the humid atmosphere of New Orleans and the dust of his own apartment, which housed an unparalleled collection of memorabilia and recording masters.

In the last years of his life, he contributed to the *New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, taking immense pains to enter into the spirit of scholarly precision by transcribing tombstones of long-dead pioneers to ensure accurate spelling and names. He also presided over the first CD transfers of his own recordings. Only a few months before his death, he assisted in a project to perform some of his compositions from the 1930s in New York, but his heart and mind had long moved on from avant garde classical pieces to the simple essence of jazz he found in New Orleans. "Playing music is like talking from the heart — you don't lie."

Baroness Phillips, prominent Labour peer and widow of Morgan Phillips, General Secretary of the Labour Party, died on August 14 aged 82. She was born on August 12, 1910.

BARONESS Phillips died two days after her 82nd birthday, having attended the House of Lords right up until the summer recess began last month. She was a woman of enormous energy and zest, the scourge of Oxford Street shoplifters, a tireless officer of many organisations and a lively speaker for her party in the Upper House.

Her husband, Morgan Phillips, was a dominant figure in the Labour party during his general secretaryship from 1946 to 1963, but she was always a formidable figure in her own right. She helped to form the National Association of Women's Clubs in 1935 and, for more than a quarter of a century, she was the moving spirit in this organisation, designed to help women, particularly housewives on new estates, in cultural and educational activities. In the 1960s, the association had more than 700 affiliated clubs.

Norah Phillips never seemed to tire, her slightly-built wiriness sustaining a resolve in all that she tackled. She could be devastatingly direct, but never lacked the sense of proportion that comes with good humour and humanitarianism. A veteran campaigner for many causes, she was also a fervent opponent of public misbehaviour. "If I see someone smoking in a non-smoking compartment or dropping litter, I don't mind telling them off," she once said. "They may be abusive, but I've noticed they always do what I ask."

Although she appeared outwardly a fulfilled person, there were less happy features to her life. Morgan Phillips was more than a social drinker

BARONESS PHILLIPS



and a stroke left him seriously impaired during the last years of his life. Although she was always close to her daughter, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, and campaigned for her in election after election, her daughter's financial situation also caused her anxiety from time to time.

Norah Phillips, a Roman Catholic who began her career as a teacher, was created a life peer in 1964 soon after the death of her husband, but this was in no sense a compensation for widowhood. Like other Labour baronesses, notably Dora Gaiskell and Jane Ewart-Biggs, she was a true working peer. She was a vigorous campaigner against shoplifting, which she preferred to call stealing, as director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops, she was in favour of almost automatic prosecution

and heavy penalties. She was a stout defender of the police and demanded severe penalties for criminals generally.

She was the only woman to have become Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, an office she held from 1978 to 1985. She was a Baroness-in-Waiting and Government Whip in the Lords from 1965 to 1970 and also had responsibilities for education, health, social services, Welsh affairs and consumer affairs.

The House of Lords came as a pleasant surprise for her. It was "the most egalitarian place on earth. I know of no other where everyone is so equal," she said. She was respected, liked and a little spoiled. Although she had memories of being a school teacher, when she was about 14, however nice the headmaster or headmistress was, he or she would never dream of sitting with her and talking

except on official business, she found that in the Lords, that was what everyone, high and not-so-high, was doing.

In turn, she brightened up the Lords and was said at the time to bustle along like a bright and busy bugger. With her trim, small figure clad in cheerful turquoise, pink or yellow dresses, and with her elaborate necklaces, Lady Phillips brought a vivid splash of colour into the chamber.

For her family, however, June 18, 1970, was a day of particular disaster. The defeat of the Wilson administration meant that she lost her government post, her daughter, Mrs Dunwoody, lost her seat at Exeter and her post as a junior minister and her then son-in-law, Dr. John Dunwoody, lost his seat at Falmouth and Camborne and his post as a junior minister.

On the assumption that those who had a place in the House of Lords must be rich, Lady Phillips was constantly sent invitations to buy valuable antiques and jewellery.

She was ever a realist, and had an earthy scepticism. She once said: "There's a big difference between philosophy and dogma. I try to live up to Catholic philosophy, but take a liberal view of dogma. It would be hypocritical of me to say my two children were all that I could have had."

She believed that women would have broken through the barriers into public and political life only when the first female Chancellor of the Exchequer was appointed. Men accepted women colleagues as long as they did the job, but many men did not believe that women could manage money. In 1966, she had been the first "noble baroness" to answer a question, as Baroness in Waiting, from the government dispatch rider who was about a campaign to educate people to the dangers of smoking.

Lady Phillips leaves her daughter and a son.

WAYNE MCLAREN

Wayne McLaren, former model for the Marlboro "Man" series of cigarette advertisements, died of lung cancer at Newport Beach, California, on July 22 aged 51.

WHEN Wayne McLaren was diagnosed with lung cancer two years ago, the bad news was not confined to him and his family. For Philip Morris, makers of Marlboro cigarettes, the announcement was a public relations nightmare. Such things are not supposed to happen to macho cowboys out on the range. The image that McLaren portrayed so effectively, Nor did it help when

McLaren became a vocal critic of the tobacco industry, spoke out at a Philip Morris stockholders' meeting and publicly attributed his ailment to 30 years of cigarette smoking. The tobacco firm's reaction was to deny that McLaren, who worked variously as a rodeo rider, movie stunt man, model and actor, had ever posed for the advertisements. McLaren countered with an affidavit from his agent asserting that he had indeed worked with Philip Morris's advertising agency, and accepted a pay-check stub to prove it. A few days before his death he said he hoped his experience would discourage others from smoking.

August 17 ON THIS DAY 1932



The Minack Theatre at Porthcurno, Cornwall, was founded by Miss Rosina Cade (1894-1983). In its early years the seating was primitive — carved in the rock. The facilities were few and the lighting and staging elementary. After the war improvements were made and Miss Cade lived to see professional companies on the stage.

THE NATURAL SETTING FOR SHAKESPEARE

Short of securing an island and wrecking a ship on its coast, there could be no more ideal setting for *The Tempest* than the cliffs a few miles from Land's End, where performances of this play are being given this week. The grassy slope between two masses of granite has been levelled down and a stage of lawn contrived between the rocks. The granite boundaries form the wings with "green rooms" behind.

Prospero's cell is at the left of the stage (from the auditorium) and immediately under a fine scrap of rock: rough granite steps lead from the rear of it to one green room. The entrance on the right is up a series of broad grass steps, and immediately at the back of the stage the cliff drops sheer to the sea. A few boulders are disposed about the lawn for the actors to recline among in the "magic sleep" scenes.

The auditorium is of grass and earth ledges cut out of the slope above the stage, and the audiences look out seaward above Porthcurno Cove over the

pale green water peculiar to this cove, where the seabed is of minute shell particles that make a beautiful sandy beach. The green water darkens as it reaches out until it merges with the deep blue of Mounts Bay, and jutting into view beyond a strip of water is the splendid natural cliff-castle of Trelyn Dinas, known to most Cornish visitors because of the Logan Rock balanced on its crest.

The passing ships, the colour of the sea, and the sound of the waves at the cliff foot below the stage all tend to give the play a romantic touch, the Caliban among the boulders is a compelling figure. Local children have entered with zest into the parts of sprites, nymphs, and reapers, and Ariel, with the sea for background, becomes realistically fairy-like.

The part of the cliffs where the performances take place forms part of the grounds of Mrs Cade, who has made arrangements for a car-park and conveniences for visitors; omnibus services will also run from Penzance in conjunction with the performances. The production is carried out by Miss Valentine and Mr McCawley, and Miss D. M. R. Cade has assisted actively in all arrangements.

There will be no "effects" in the production of *The Tempest*. A toy storm out of doors would seem patrician, and it is a wise choice to leave it to the imagination of the audience, but the shipwrecked mariners will come up from a real sea, and if the wind decides to play a part, there will be reality enough about the natural "effects".

English Heritage throws down gauntlet over battlefield

By ROBIN YOUNG

WARFARE is about to break out once more over the battlefields of Britain, reminding tourists that this land is not just green and pleasant but also impressively blood-stained.

A regiment of conservationists summoned by the Battlefields Trust to a conference this weekend in Worcester about the tourism potential of preserving battlefields heard with delight that English Heritage is to heed its call to arms, and will champion the conservationist cause against not less doughty an opponent than Lord Hanson's conglomerate and its subsidiary, Arney Roadstone.

The news burst on the conference, says Kelvin van Hasselt, co-ordinator of the Battlefields Trust. "Like a bombshell."

A public enquiry in 1985 which enabled the A1-M1 link to be built over the site of the battle of Naseby, the decisive engagement in the English Civil War.

At the time English Heritage claimed that battlefields were outside its brief, but now the organisation accepts responsibility and at Worcester its spokesman and battlefields specialist, Dai Morgan-Evans, promised that English Heritage would rally to the cause and give evidence at a forthcoming planning enquiry into Staffordshire county council's proposal to allow Arney Roadstone, a subsidiary of Hanson Trust, to open a gravel-pit on the site of the battle of Blenheim.

Blenheim is one of 26 British battlefields which are still intact. Two and a half miles east of Market Drayton on the A53 it was the site in 1459 of an engagement between Yorkists commanded by the Earl of

Salisbury and some 10,000 Lancastrians under Lord Audley.

Salisbury, whose army was outnumbered by about two to one, feigned a retreat which tempted Audley into a charge across boggy ground into a lethal rain of arrows.

A cross on the hillside is believed to mark where Audley himself fell; alongside about 2,000 of the male population of Cheshire, and a local legend claims that Queen Margaret, who is supposed to have been watching the fight from the tower of Muckleston church, made good her escape riding a horse with its shoes reversed to confuse her pursuers.

The local, and appropriately named, Loggerheads parish council has unanimously supported the creation of a Blenheim Battlefield Preservation Society to oppose Arney Roadstone's quarrying plans. The society has appointed the Conservative M.P., Bill Cash, whose

ancestors died in the battle, as its Staffordshire president, while its acting secretary is the Reverend Dr Brian Swynnerton, who lives in a house on the battlefield where Audley is said to have had his headquarters.

English Heritage, which has now commissioned the help of the National Army Museum in drafting a register of British battlefields, has recruited one more big gun to the conservationists' side. The barrister who roused the conservationists' historians at the Naseby inquiry in 1985 has now been signed up to coach English Heritage's witnesses at the Blenheim Heath enquiry, which is scheduled for November.

Further skirmishes can be expected over which battlefields will eventually be included on English Heritage's register. Mr Morgan-Evans's preliminary working list includes 28 names, but excludes, for example, Powick Bridge, Worcester,

the first serious engagement of the English Civil War in 1642.

The city has already built over the site of the later battle of Worcester, fought in 1651, but Worcester council would like to see Powick Bridge on the register for the extra tourism it might bring.

Worcester, with its strong Civil War connections, is a future venue for the Royal Armouries' touring exhibition of arms and armour of the English Civil War, sponsored by *The Times* to mark the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities.

The exhibition is currently at Nottingham Castle Museum. Having broken attendance records in Hull and Coventry, it has comfortably increased on the Nottingham museum's attendance figures for past year. The exhibition remains in Nottingham until September 20. It then opens in Worcester at the Foregate Museum on September 26, remaining there until January 3.

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Pound trades in fear of a French no vote

THERE is little chance of a reprieve for sterling before France's referendum on the Maastricht treaty on September 20. The pound is expected to continue languishing close to the bottom of its permitted range in the exchange-rate mechanism.

On Friday, sterling closed at DM2.8174. That was the lowest level since Margaret Thatcher took Britain into the ERM in 1990 and just a few pence above the threshold at which the Bank of England would be forced to intervene in the markets — or, worse, be forced to raise interest rates to defend the currency.

Waiting for France to make up its mind and trying to make sense of recent central bank intervention in support of the dollar has become the main concern of financial markets in London and elsewhere in Europe. A *non* vote would almost certainly hit sterling harder than the French franc. It would probably lead to a massive appreciation of the mark, as international investors switched to the German currency as the only safe refuge, especially since persistent dollar weakness is aggravating the situation.

The medium-term impact on markets could be even worse if a French *no* vote were to lead to a political realignment within the European Community, with a core group made up of Germany, France and the Benelux countries pressing ahead for an

A failure by France to back the Maastricht treaty next month would hit the pound harder than the franc, says Wolfgang Münchau

even more federalist union, of a kind proffered by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. Such a move would leave the British government with an acute political dilemma.

However, such an outcome, while possible, is not likely. Instead, one could expect that plans to introduce a single currency would be shelved for the time being, while European leaders endeavoured to sustain present structures, including the ERM. One of the most pressing difficulties of such a circumstance is that the importance of the Bundesbank would grow still further, as will concern over German economic domination in Europe.

Mark Brett, director of currency and bond strategy at Barclays de Zoete Wedd in London, said a French *no* vote would lead to an extraordinary situation: Denmark and France would be the only countries that qualified for the club [economic and monetary union] while not wanting it. He added: "But the French would act quickly to make sure they remain at the core of the ERM system."

There appears to be a consensus that the damage

caused by a *no* vote could be contained as the French government would try hard not to let the situation get out of control and would stick with the ERM whatever the short-term cost to the economy might be.

Mr Brett said that financial markets have become more pessimistic about the referendum. He added that there was some concern over the recent bout of intervention by central banks, which had acted in concert to sell the mark in support of the dollar. It is rare for the central banks to intervene in August, especially without any apparent reason, as seems to be the case. There remains a degree of speculation that central banks deliberately tried to depress the mark in preparation for a possible *no* vote.

A French rejection would not only lead to the hardest test in the ERM's 13-year history, but could also test John Major's commitment to British membership of the ERM. The prime minister may be faced with the choice of having to raise interest rates to defend sterling, to devalue, or withdraw from the ERM shortly before the Conservative party conference.

Most recent opinion polls in France have pointed towards a stable majority in favour of the Maastricht treaty, but markets tend to place less confidence in opinion polls after the British general election and the Danish referendum on the Maastricht treaty, when on both occasions opinion polls predicted the wrong outcome. Further uncertainty derives from the fact that a great number of voters appear not yet to have made up their minds.

Alison Cottrell, senior European economist at Midland Montagu, expects the uncertainty to continue right until the referendum. She said that from a market point of view, "the worst outcome would be a narrow *yes* vote, because that would not silence the opponents elsewhere. What you probably get is more referenda and that would create even more uncertainty."

There appears to be some limited, though speculative, buying of French bonds, which carry a real yield of more than 2 per cent higher than German bonds. That situation reflects uncertainty over the French franc and the referendum itself. The intriguing argument for buying French bonds, as put forward by one analyst, is that if the French vote in favour of the Maastricht treaty, the franc would appreciate. If they vote against the treaty, those in doubt would be advised to move out of sterling anyway.



Federalist thought: Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission

British Gas considers whether to carry out demerger

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Gas, under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after a long-running battle with Ofgas, the industry regulator, is considering a novel scheme of "unbundling" which would break up the business into half a dozen or more independent business units.

The scheme, one of a number of options under consideration in the face of the threat of a monopolies commission inspired break-up of British Gas, would also allow thousands of jobs to be shed from the company's 70,000-strong workforce, City sources say.

British Gas refused to comment on the unbundling, but it is known the study was already being drawn up well before last month's reference to the monopolies commission of the entire gas market in Britain.

Among the possibilities under consideration are the splitting of the trading side into four separate businesses: retailing, installation and contracting, domestic supply to the 18 million households who currently take gas, and the contract business supplying industrial consumers. At the same time the transportation side would be divided into pipelines and storage.

All the separate businesses would be run as independent profit centres, with their own management, standards of service and profit targets.

British Gas may eventually put this option to the monopolies commission as part of its submission to the enquiry, expected to report next spring.

The company hopes such a pro-active stance, putting forward the prospect of an effective break-up of the company along business lines, will be enough to forestall some of its more radical critics who are keen that the monopoly be split into quite independent companies, possibly even on a regional basis. British Gas is keen to resist such a threat, having successfully fought off just such a split when the business was privatised in 1986.

The company believes that against a background of tighter regulatory control, unbundling would offer the only real prospect of further cost-cutting in the years ahead.

British Gas believes the monopoly enquiry was forced on it by what it sees as the hostile approach taken by the head of Ofgas, Sir James McKinnon. He wanted to refer the transportation side to the monopolies commission after failing to reach agreement with the company over the importation of more outside competition into this monopoly business.

British Gas then decided to raise the stakes by requesting Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, to refer all of the company's business, including supply of gas to domestic customers, to the monopolies commission.

BZW finds computer too dear

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd, the financial markets division of Barclays, has written off a multimillion pound computer project because of the soaring cost of future development.

BZW has scrapped The Settlements System (TSS), its innovative electronic share settlement network that it launched in 1989 and planned to link up with Taurus, the Stock Exchange's paperless settlement process, when that system is finally launched.

But the three-year project was abandoned last month when the bank decided instead to buy a proprietary system called TCAM which is being used by other broking houses.

BZW has appointed British Telecom as the systems integrator. Most of the 30 contract staff working on TSS have left BZW, while 20 of the bank's own employees have been moved to other departments. Industry sources estimate the cost of the abandoned project was up to £15 million.

"This is the price you pay for starting with your own ideas before a package is available," said a spokesman. "We felt that TCAM offered opportunities in the future to cut development costs and we were looking where the system was going in the future."

The development of Taurus has already cost £45 million and it is now struggling to meet its latest deadline in April next year.

Engineers in better fettle

THE UK engineering industry is better placed now than for decades to take advantage of any economic upturn, according to Albert E Sharp, the Birmingham stockbroker.

The firm says that many engineering companies have been transformed, are now much more competitive than they have been at any time over the past 20 years and enjoy stronger positions in overseas markets.

A diamond mine is born — parent De Beers unwell

Angolan smuggling and depressed sales bode ill for De Beers as Venetia opens, writes Colin Campbell

HARRY Oppenheimer, the South African mining magnate, stood not too many miles from the mighty Limpopo river in the northern Transvaal, South Africa, on Friday, and officially opened another mine.

The dozen diamonds and gold and former chairman of De Beers has opened many mines in his long and varied life, but Friday's opening was special — Venetia, a diamond mine built at a capital cost of \$400 million, which De Beers is developing under an agreement with the Anglovaal mining group.

Venetia is set to become one of the great diamond mines of the world, and in full production will turn out more than 5 million carats a year, thereby making an invaluable contribution to South Africa's economy.

But it would have been a day of mixed emotions, because the clouds of gloom hanging over the international diamond market and the De Beers group, of which Mr Oppenheimer has been a director for 57 of its 104 years, can never have looked so menacing.

Venetia is a mine of the nineties and the next century. It is the first significant diamond mine to be developed in South Africa in 25 years, and is so environmentally friendly that even the tops of the electricity pylons have been specially designed to ensure raptors do not electrocute themselves.

But while it is De Beers' corporate nature to think and plan in decades rather than months, there is a problem in the world diamond market this year that will have exercised Mr Oppenheimer's mind. Diamond sales are at the mercy of discretionary



Praying for rain in Angola: Harry Oppenheimer

spending, and 1992 conditions are not buoyant — a situation born of depressed economic conditions in most of the world's economies that has been compounded by a "sudden and unprecedented explosion" of illicit diamonds smuggled out of Angola.

The raison d'être of De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation,

contracted with the CSO, and then sells these roughs at ten "sights" to international diamond dealers. Their requirements are fashioned by conditions in the retail market.

The financial muscle behind the CSO and De Beers has never been in serious doubt, and in difficult times in the market, De Beers has generally managed to carry

There could be up to 50,000 illicit diggers in the Angolan fields and their numbers are growing by 500 a day

is to ensure stable conditions in the world of diamonds, and stable prices.

The CSO buys in and holds rough diamonds from its own mines and those of other diamond producers who are

the cost of stocking roughs with relative ease.

But weaker economies in the ultimate markets of Japan, America and Europe have seen CSO rough diamond sales fall in the first half of this

year, and De Beers gave a warning last week that CSO sales may fall further in the second half.

The CSO had initially, and with a certain amount of ease, been able to buy in a certain percentage of smuggled stones that had found their way to Antwerp. But the trickle of smuggled goods has turned into a flood.

The cost of buying-in has risen to millions, and Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of De Beers, gave a warning last week that while De Beers had managed to maintain the 1992 interim dividend, "the current outlook would indicate a significant reduction in the final dividends".

London analysts who insist that they were given an "upbeat" assessment of the diamond market earlier this year when De Beers hosted an "investment road-show" in London, and who now say they feel badly "let down" by last week's De Beers' interim announcement, are not in a forgiving mood.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson says there could be up to 50,000 illicit diggers in the Angolan fields, and because it is the dry season, the number of illegal diggers is increasing by 500 a day. When the rains come, digging will become more difficult.

The CSO has so far bought in a high percentage of smuggled stones, the total incidence of which is thought to be running at between \$400 million and \$500 million. Illegal production is equivalent to a large new mine coming into full production without the usual notice or time to prepare for its marketing.

From September, the CSO is deferring 25 per cent of its contracted purchases from producers who sell to the CSO, Venetia included.

The corporate emblem of Venetia is the guardian lion, the biblical symbol of St Mark, the patron saint of Venice.

Citizens of Venice daily offer prayers to St Mark that their city be spared from flood. Venetia will pray to St Mark that rains soon come in Angola, so that it can be saved from illicit stones.

Japan's breweries thirst for exports

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

JAPANESE brewers are hoping to quench their profits thirst by raising their market shares in America, Europe and Asia. At present, Japanese exports account for a small fraction of world beer consumption.

Japan's four biggest brewers — Kirin, Asahi, Sapporo and Suntory — export about 30,000 kilolitres each year, but world beer consumption is well over 100 million kilolitres, according to the Brewers Association of Japan. America tops the list of targets. A great deal of beer is drunk and imports' share of the market is high. Germans top the world in beer consumption per head but Americans drink about twice as much in total — 22.7 million kilolitres in 1990 — according to the association. Imported beer accounted for 4 to 5 per cent of that.

Overseas, Japanese beer has hitherto been sold mainly to Japanese restaurants or oriental supermarkets, but that is changing.

"Japanese beer is increasingly popular among Americans," an Asahi spokesman said. "Sixty per cent of our beer sold in the United States now goes to the local market, such as supermarkets and liquor shops." Sapporo leads in America, aiming at sales of 1.5 million cases this year, compared with 1.4 million in 1991, said Kenzo Sakami, the

company's general manager.

Asahi aims to increase sales in America to 850,000 cases in 1992 from 700,000 cases last year. Each case holds 12 633-millilitre bottles.

Kirin and Suntory have linked with Canadian brewers to make beer that will keep the premium image of imported beer in the US but be fresher on the shelves.

Molson, based in Montreal, brews Kirin beer for export to the US, where Kirin expects to sell 1.3 million cases in 1992. In February, Toronto-based John Labatt started making canned draught beer for Suntory, which aims to sell 200,000 cases in the US in the first year.

Japanese brewers are also eyeing the potentially lucrative European market. Kirin aims to strengthen European sales through a pact with Britain's Charles Wells, which will make Kirin lager at its factory in Bedford from February next year. Target production is 300,000 cases a year by 1996.

Courage, part of Australia's Foster's group, might produce Asahi beer in the UK if European sales reach 300,000 or 400,000 cases a year. Asahi owns a fifth of Foster's.

The Japanese brewing companies are also keen to expand in Asian countries with low import duties on beer, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

Delay in Wang results increases speculation about shake-up

FROM AP IN BOSTON

SPECULATION continues that a shake-up is looming at Wang Laboratories, as the struggling computer maker again refused to say when it would disclose last year's results.

Therapeutics, for the year to end-June, were originally expected by the end of July, and Wang officials later said they would be released in early August.

Ed Pignone, a spokesman for Wang, would only say that

the results will be released "soon". Under federal requirements, companies technically have 90 days to report, although typically they produce figures within a month after a quarter has ended.

James Popkin, an analyst with Gartner Group in Stamford, Connecticut, said: "They're probably taking time to figure out how to restructure the company to take advantage of its strengths."

Last week, Wang paid its employees two days early, triggering more talk about a possible filing for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

However, Thomas Willmott, an analyst with Aberdeen Group in Boston, said if Richard Miller, Wang's chairman, needed to file for chapter 11, "he could have done it three weeks ago".

Instead, Mr Willmott speculated that Mr Miller might be

using the extra time to try to sell off part of Wang's business to raise more cash, and avoid the possibility of ending the year with a negative net worth.

Wang is already expected to take a one-off charge against earnings to cover the cost of 1,000 redundancies announced earlier this year.

Depending on the size of the charge and potential loss, Wang could be in violation of loan terms with creditors, analysts say, but Wang has negotiated waivers of the loan covenants in the past.

Wang, which has suffered heavy losses and has cut its payroll over the past few years, is trying to remodel itself by selling computers from International Business Machines.

Wang is tailoring software for these machines and has won praise for some of its technology, particularly in image processing.

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Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 3rd September, 1992 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 30th September, 1992. The dividend will be paid on 1st October, 1992.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyd's Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, The Causway, Worthing, West Sussex, BN99 6DA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd September, 1992.



Simon: cutting costs

ABOUT a third of onshore jobs in the North Sea oil industry could disappear in the next two years because of rising costs, low oil prices and the British tax regime. So says the UK Offshore Operators Association, which estimates that about 50,000 out of 150,000 onshore jobs, largely in Scotland and the North of England, could disappear as its 35 exploration and production members slow down spending. Onshore employment in the industry far exceeds the number of jobs offshore, put at 35,000.

The association's predictions follow cuts at BP and Lamsco. BP's chief executive, David Simon, has said the group will reduce capital spending from \$8 billion last year to \$5 billion next year and the year after. Such cuts are seen in the industry as the start of the structural decline in North Sea operations as production at the large fields falls. That will be replaced only by oil and gas from

much smaller fields whose output can be handled by the equipment put in place for the larger fields. Such developments dispense with the need for new platforms.

There has been a glut of smaller developments that can be traced back to the aftermath of the oil price fall in 1986. At its nadir, oil was changing hands for \$8 a barrel before rising to \$40 at the height of the Gulf war, before falling to the current \$18. This places great pressure on costs, which the offshore association sees as the biggest obstacle to North Sea developments. Despite advances in technology production, costs still rose 20 per cent last year at some North Sea producers. Expressed in real 1991 terms, the operating cost of producing a barrel of oil has risen from £1.75 in the mid-1970s to £3.30 today.

Although the tax system can mitigate rising costs and weak prices, there are anomalies in the way it works. The

offshore association says that a small, 50-million-barrel oilfield producing via existing facilities can be exempt from petroleum revenue tax, but a 100-million-barrel field can suffer the full impact at the top marginal rate, 53 to 85 per cent. The association says: "The tax regime is not sensitive to the new economics of the North Sea." In almost 30 years, the oil companies say they have invested £110 billion and paid £75 billion of tax.

The oil producers are also fighting Brussels bureaucracy. This year, the European Commission brought British producers under the terms of the new procurement directive, which takes effect on January 1. This requires oil producers to advertise every supply contract to all the companies eligible to supply the industry throughout the construction process. This would delay the speed at which first oil is produced. Such bureaucracy would add a critical 2 per cent to production costs.

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Why coal sale must go on back burner

Silence over coal privatisation is due only in part to the absence of ministers and their senior advisers from Whitehall. The missing link between the government's ambitions and the profitability of British Coal is proving especially difficult to forge. Before a prospectus can be drawn up, contracts that guarantee the medium-term business of British Coal must be struck with the power generators, its biggest customers. This was never going to be an easy assignment for in the long run the generators have access to a world market for coal at prices well below those of British Coal. The government, not surprisingly, favours what is effectively a market rigging exercise under which the generators agree to take more coal than they need at prices that would flatten BC's profits for a few years. The generators give the impression that they are being leashed on to reach agreement and have so far not liked what is on offer. Official mutterings about a break-up of the power generators support the view that the government is becoming impatient at lack of progress.

There is a growing suspicion that the government wishes to warm the hearts of the faithful by announcing details of coal privatisation at the Conservative party conference in the autumn. Instead, ministers concerned should use the August breathing space to return to first principles and rethink what has become a classic political fudge. There is abundant prima facie evidence that the privatisation of power was botched and is not working well. Electricity prices, even to large-scale industrial users, have surged throughout the worst recession since the war. The so-called pool pricing arrangement was through a system of competitive tendering intended to introduce an element of market competition. If true, this process could have been expected to reduce prices, or at least exert a strong downward pressure on them. There is no evidence that this has taken place.

Elsewhere, regional electricity distributors are rushing ahead with plans for gas-fired generating capacity that will deliver energy more expensively than the most cost-effective coal-fired plant. The generators, also heavily into a rush for gas, deny this but have to resort to a system of voodoo economics inherited from a Whitehall ivory tower to make their case. The nuclear power industry, still heavily subsidised, is distorting prices and demand patterns.

Many of these observations are used by the coal lobby to press for the industry to be given the status of an endangered species. That should not invalidate them nor add weight to such special pleading. What is needed is a radical reappraisal prepared to confront the monolithic structures of the power industry, be they coal producers, electricity distributors or power generators. Its basis should be the primacy of the consumer, especially the industrial consumer. Power is a basic, unavoidable and sometimes substantial input cost for industry and government policy should be directed towards the lowest energy costs consistent with fair rates of return for generators and distributors.

This means introducing more competition. Splitting the generating business into just two parts was not sufficient on the evidence so far. As the Commons select committee on energy suggested last March, PowerGen and National Power should be subject to investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to find ways of reducing their dominance. Power stations scheduled for closure by existing generators, usually inefficient but cheap producers since their capital costs have been written off, should be sold to new entrants to the industry. Greater diversity of generation would also give coal a better chance. The government would have to defer coal's privatisation and the sales of its holdings in the generators too, an uneasy choice for a chancellor who badly needs the cash, but the right one for business.

Treasury has still not learned from the mistakes of Lawson's boom

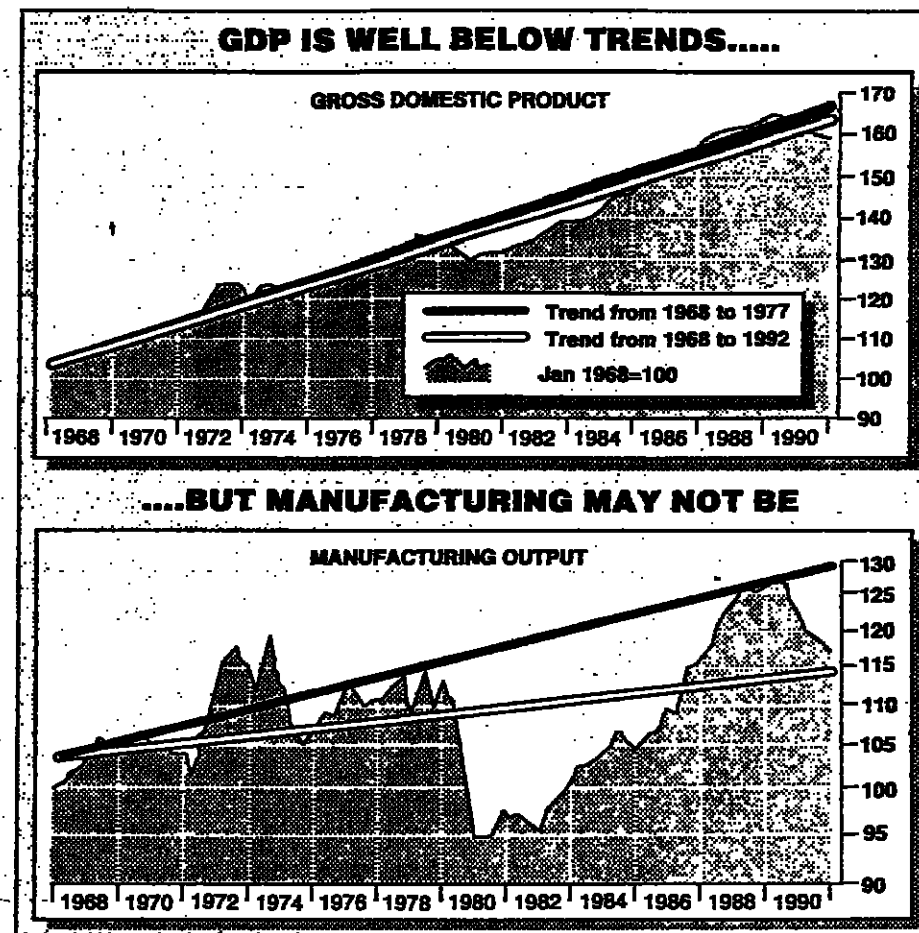
Anatole Kaletsky argues that calls for action now to stimulate growth in the economy must not be ignored

In *The Treasury Under the Tories*, his classic book on economic management in the 1950s and 1960s, Samuel Brittan, the distinguished economic commentator who was then economic editor of the *Observer* and an enthusiastic advocate of Keynesian fine tuning, tried to explain the persistent economic mismanagement that had cast Britain down from the top to the bottom of the world economic league. He quoted with approval the analysis offered by another senior journalist: "How it can be seriously suggested that after three years of stagnation the economy was re-expanded too soon in 1958, I find utterly bewildering. After all, the Treasury has never done anything too soon. The Treasury's actions fall neatly into two categories: too little too late and too much too late."

The author of this remark was the then city editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, one Nigel Lawson. Many people these days think Lord Lawson was the worst Chancellor in British history, but he is still much admired at the top of the Treasury and has been lavishly praised in Budget speeches by his two former protégés, Norman Lamont and John Major. The mandarins should, therefore, recall their former hero's injunction, before they dismiss all demands for economic action with their normal complacent shrugs.

Last week, I argued that although the economic downturn was now probably over (we will have a clearer idea on Wednesday, with the publication of the second-quarter GDP), the chances of an adequate recovery would remain extremely low until the government did something to help. In next week's *Economic View*, I will look at some ways to stimulate the economy without spoiling Mr Major's love affair with the ERM. But first I must answer an objection still raised by many businessmen and economists to the very idea of spurring the economic recovery.

It is now generally accepted that the Treasury made a series of disastrous mistakes in the last three years and thereby aggravated the present recession.



They grant that interest rates should have been cut sooner, fiscal policy should have been relaxed earlier and the housing market should have been supported, rather than attacked in the 1991 Budget. But now it is too late to correct these blunders. It takes at least a year or two for any policy change to have its full economic impact. If the economy is at or near the bottom of the cycle, anything the government did now would have no effect on the recession, but would add to inflation in the next boom.

This argument for inaction is utterly misconceived, for at least three reasons. First, businessmen and economists (myself included) are hopeless at forecasting turning points in recessions. The Treasury always believes that the economy is "just about to turn" and therefore that no "artificial" stimulus is needed. To listen to the smug Treasury knights is to accept permanent paralysis. If the Chancellor had ignored the Treasury view in 1990, or even in 1991, some of the worst ravages of the present recession could have been avoided. If complacency prevails again this year, further disasters could lie in store.

Second, the economic models showing long lags between stimulative policies and eco-

nomic results are just extrapolations from the past, which ignore what is today the crucial factor—confidence. At present, consumers, businessmen and financial investors all expect the economy to remain weak, not only for a few months but for years ahead.

If the government announced policy changes likely to increase activity and employment in 1993, 1994 and 1995, the psychological impact would be immediate—consumers would become more confident about buying houses, businessmen would be more willing to invest and financial markets would foresee less pressure on the government to devalue its way out of recession. Thus the improvement in confidence would produce economic benefits well before

the additional demand from the policy stimulus came through.

Third, and most importantly, there is every reason to welcome an economic stimulus that comes on stream in one or two years' time. The greatest threat to the economy in 1993 and 1994 will not be a boom, but a continuing period of stagnation. On present trends, even the sluggish recovery of the early 1980s seems out of reach in the next two years.

Yet, as the charts show, it actually took five years after the so-called "end" of the last recession for gross domestic product to return to its trend rate of growth. Worse still, the already feeble performance of Britain's manufacturing came to a dead end in the 1980s. It is because manufacturing industry never recovered fully

from the collapse of the early 1980s, that Britain is now condemned to perpetual balance of payments deficits and has been transformed from an international creditor into a debtor nation in just five years. But why did manufacturing remain depressed throughout the last decade? The main reasons were the continuing impact of an overvalued exchange rate and the inadequate level of domestic demand until Mr Lawson's notorious U-turn. Judging by the present attitudes of Treasury ministers and officials, this grim history is all too likely to repeat itself, up to and including the inflationary misjudgments of the Lawson boom.

The Lawson boom was in fact the clearest ever example of the Treasury doing "too much, too late". Its biggest mistake in the 1980s was not doing too much, but doing what it did far too late.

As Peter Jay has pointed out, anyone who believes Mr Lawson was wrong to stimulate the economy in the mid-1980s must also accept that, far from improving the economy's supply side, Thatcherism did permanent damage to Britain's capacity for growth. At the time of Mr Lawson's first reflationary Budget in 1986, unemployment was 3.4 million and still rising. Even in late 1987, when the worst mistakes were allegedly made, unemployment was higher than it is today, while manufacturing output had not yet regained its pre-recession level of 8½ years before. The fact is that the policies that produced the Lawson boom in the late 1980s were a direct response to a depression in the British economy which did not end with the "recovery" of 1981, but actually persisted until 1986. Amazingly, the same Treasury officials now look like condemning Britain to repeat the same disastrous pattern in the next decade.

The idea that the government can afford to wait until the run-up to the next general election before relaxing economic policy is not only cynical and contemptuous of the millions who will lose their jobs,

businesses and homes in the meantime. It is also economically illiterate.

The clear lesson of the 1980s is that the Treasury must act now to stimulate growth unless it is going to shirk its hands and do nothing about economic stagnation and unemployment for the whole of the next decade. Yet the Tory high command's plan is to ignore the "siren voices" now, in order to be able to cut taxes and interest rates in the mid-1990s. This would be to repeat the classic Treasury blunder of stimulating the economy when it really is too late.

By the time any pre-election stimulus fed through to demand, it would combine with a natural cyclical upswing to generate another unsustainable boom, just as it did in the late 1980s. Even a small budget giveaway in 1994 or 1995 would be far more inflationary than a big stimulus today. At present, a well-directed economic boost would almost certainly produce higher output, instead of more inflation. But the certainty of this favorable tradeoff, and the chances of getting the timing right diminish every month.

By the mid-nineties, in fact, the correct prescription for the economy is quite likely to be a mild dose of deflation. This would be politically quite tolerable if it came after several years of economic growth, but unthinkable if unemployment were still almost three million.

Ironically, the longer Mr Major continues on his quixotic quest for zero inflation, the more damage he will do to the economy's productive potential, and the surer we can be that he will eventually follow his erstwhile mentor, Lord Lawson, and do a U-turn at exactly the wrong time. By the time Mr Major stops tilting at his inflationary windmills, the complacent mandarins in the Treasury will be ready to make its traditional choice: to do too little, too late, or too much, too late. The curse of Treasury procrastination will live on.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Parsley finds time for trade

TWO weeks before his two-month holiday was due to end, Michael Parsley, a sales trader at Lehman Brothers until the end of June, is returning to the City fray. Parsley, aged 47, a popular *bon vivant*, a former partner at Hoare Govett, and then managing director of Goldman Sachs in London—a career cut short when he suffered a heart attack—resigned from Lehman on the grounds that he did not feel comfortable with the firm's European bias. At the time, he was, he told the *City Diary*, looking for something based in the United Kingdom and was also determined to spend the next two months playing golf with his 20-year-old son, David, before he set off on a two-year backpacking trip that was to start in Bangkok. Now, despite his specified preference for the United Kingdom, Parsley has been persuaded to join UBS Phillips & Drew, of Switzerland, as a senior sales trader handling UK, European and American business. He takes on his new role today. Parsley's new boss, managing director Steven Dalby—who celebrated his 38th birthday on Saturday—says: "I'm really pleased to have got hold of him, it has taken me a week after week of playing golf with him to persuade him. He knows everybody and I think he will make a big difference here. He is a true business-getter." Parsley's immediate superior will be Jonathan Cooke, who is head of sales trading.



"Every time I think it has bottomed out... it bottoms out."

GUFFAWS of laughter were heard at the Stock Exchange when officials learned that the SE's much-delayed Taurus system has now been dubbed the "tortoise system" by City wags. The computerised share system, first proposed in 1983, was originally due to be launched in 1989 but has been beset by technological difficulties. Now, companies such as BT have said they will use Taurus and, word is that the SE hopes that will help bring the Tortoise out of its shell. "I hadn't heard that one before," laughed one SE man. "But it's so true."

Talking shop

IN TWO months' time, perhaps everyone will have forgotten Hamish McFall, the director of Bunson-Marsteller quoted as saying that County NatWest, the merchant bank, "stank" because it had handed over taped telephone conversations. Must certainly hope

so. McFall, a former conservative parliamentary candidate, was speaking after the takeover panel had criticised his public relations firm for leaking material and, at times, inaccurate information during the course of IT Group's successful bid for Dowdy. It now comes to light that in October McFall will be one of the key speakers at a seminar organised as part of the *Investor Relations Conference and Awards*, at Chiswell Street brewery. Another of the speakers, earlier in the day, will be Philip Augar, managing director of County NatWest. And McFall's chosen topic? "Getting the best from site visits and analysts' briefings."

No justice in joke

IF YOU must make jokes about Essex men, please try not to make them within earshot of the Gresham Street offices of Martin Cornish and Vincent Mercer, two legal high-fliers who have just set up M-W Cornish & Co, a City law firm. Cornish, 37, a former partner at Simmons & Simmons as well as a one-time director of legal services at Shearson Lehman, comes from Ingatestone in the heart of Essex. Mercer, 39, a derivatives specialist, comes from Great Dunmow, which is also in Essex. Cornish, however, sounds distinctly unamused at the idea that his and his partner's backgrounds have already marked the new firm out among rival lawyers as a bastion of Essex men. "We met for the first time earlier this year and the Essex connection is purely coincidental," states Cornish testily. "I

don't think either of us could be called typical Essex men."

Blank cheque

THE sums have finally been completed and Charterhouse chairman Victor Blank will now know that the charity cricket match, held in the grounds of his Oxfordshire manor house last weekend, with six merchant banks competing, raised a total of £17,000. The tournament was in aid of the Lords Taverners, the cricketing charity that Blank recently joined. He was, it seems, not deterred from joining its membership by the appearance in an *IT* of heritage minister David Mellor, the day the story broke about his extra-marital affair with an actress, thereby ensuring it considerable publicity. His connections are, after all, impeccable. The patron is Prince Philip and, with effect from January 1, Prince Edward takes over from Leslie Crowther as its president. Patrick Shervington, a former colonel in the Fusiliers, who took over the day-to-day running of *IT* last January, is delighted by Blank's efforts, hopes the cricket match will become an annual fixture and is looking for someone to donate a trophy. Mr Shervington is, he adds, adjusting to civilian life well, after 27 years in the army, but admits he is amazed by the number of monetary requests the charity receives. "We get about 60 a month. One was wrongly addressed and the letter began 'Dear Sir/Madam'. Suffice to say they didn't get a penny."

CAROL LEONARD

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Profit markdown in store at Argos

TODAY

TOUGH competition, as retailers try to boost sales during the recessionary squeeze, is likely to depress first-half profits at Argos, Britain's biggest catalogue shopping chain.

Julie Ramshaw, at Morgan Stanley, expects interim pre-tax profits to slip to £7 million, down from £10.7 million last time. Market forecasts range from £7 million to £10 million. The interim dividend should "at least" be maintained at 2.1p a share.

However, analysts will be more interested to hear what Argos has to say about current trading than its profits because the company makes most of its money in the second half of the year, which includes the all-important Christmas trading period.

Argos said in May that its total sales so far in 1992 were up on the same period a year ago but considered it too early to say whether there had been a sustained pick-up in demand.

Morgan Stanley thinks trading has been a little lacklustre and does not expect a particularly encouraging trading statement, given the dismal economic background and greater competition, with rivals cutting prices to battle against the recession.

Some analysts fear that its costs may have risen faster than sales in the first half, squeezing its already narrow margins. As a discount retailer, Argos was considered quite recession-resistant when the economy started turning down, but it has proved to be a cyclical business. "People felt it would be immune to recession, but the recession has proved long and nasty," one analyst said.

Analysts want to hear what the company is doing to control costs and about progress so far at Chesterman, Argos's new specialist furniture chain.

Chesterman is expected to incur a loss of about £2 million this time, not helped by the dire state of the housing market and greater competition from among the DIY retailers, who are fighting a price war of their own.

Interim: Alliance Trust, Argos.



Under pressure: Robin Biggam, chairman of BICC, may be helped by better first-half margins

Plasmeac. Final: Heath (Samuel) & Sons, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust. Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades (July).

TOMORROW

The benefits of cost-cutting and organic growth are expected to help Hickson International, the specialist chemicals group, announce interim pre-tax profits of £16 million, compared with £10.2 million last time, according to Philip Morris, at Smith New Court. Mr Morris is looking for a maintained interim dividend of 2.85p.

County NatWest WoodMac has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £10.5 million (£9 million) for Micro Focus Group, the computer software supplier.

Sedgwick Group, the insurance broker, is expected to report a slide in first-half pre-tax profits to £55 million, against £65.3 million last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £54 million to £59 million. A maintained 8p interim is anticipated.

Interim: Bedford (Wm), Brabant Resources, Burlington Group, CSC Investment Trust, City Centre Restaurants, Fleming Mercantile (second quarter), GT Chile Growth Fund, Hickson International, Inch Kenneth Kaling Rubber, Lowe (Robert H & Co, Micro Focus Group, Pico Higgs, Quicks Group, Sedgwick Group.

Final: Gold Fields of South Africa, Impala Platinum Holdings. Economic statistics: UK acquisitions and mergers (second quarter); public sector borrowing requirement (July); quarterly analysis of unemployment by age and duration (July).

WEDNESDAY

The continuing recession and tough trading conditions in overseas markets will keep pressure on first-half profits at BICC, the Balfour Beatty construction and cables group, chaired by Robin Biggam, but margin improvements should limit the impact on the bottom line. At Credit Lyonnais Laing, has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £60 million, against £65.9 million last time, although his forecast is clear of any provisions for property development, including Spitalfields. Market forecasts range from £53 million to £65 million. The interim dividend should be maintained at 6p a share, as the company promised it would maintain the year's payout at 19.25p at the time of May's £154 million rights issue.

One of the City's main talking points is whether BICC, part of the Transmanche Link consortium building the Channel tunnel, will indicate whether further provisions are likely for its Channel tunnel involvement, especially as Eurotunnel is still involved in a dispute with TML over rising costs of completing the undersea link between England and France. Despite the difficult trading conditions gripping its sector, Marley, the building materials group, is expected to report a slight rise in interim pre-tax profits to £10 million (£9.3 million), according to Mark Hake, at Nikko, the Japanese securities house. Market forecasts range from £6 million to £10 million.

THURSDAY

Despite negative currency effects, improved margins, aided by cost-cutting, should help Rentokil Group, the environmental services and property-care group headed by David Newbould, to report an advance in interim pre-tax profits to £50.4 million (£42.3 million), according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £50 million to £53 million. An improved interim dividend of 0.64p (0.53p) a share is predicted.

Willis Corroon Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, is expected to report a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £62 million (£69.4 million), according to Charles Coyne at Credit Lyonnais Laing. Market forecasts range from £56 million to £64 million. The quarterly dividend (3.3p) should be maintained.

Interim: Marks (T), Dawson Group, Export International, Kofe International, Lec Refrigeration, McAlpine (Alfred), Rentokil Group, Shorro Group Holdings, Willis Corroon Group, Wywille Garden Centres, Final: Bellwin, EIT Group. Economic statistics: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing industries (second quarter - provisional); major British banking groups' monthly statement (July); provisional estimates of monthly aggregates (July); manufacturers and distributors' stocks (second quarter - provisional).

FRIDAY

Interim: Fulcrum Investment Trust, New Zealand Investment Trust (third quarter), Final: Lazard.

Economic statistics: National accounts advance annual estimates (1991).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Price mentality holds key to housing market

As this year has passed, it has become apparent that inflation is falling, if anything, faster than expected. But it has also become clear that the high inflation mentality is entrenched in far more parts of the economy than just the labour market.

Labour cost inflation has not yet disappeared, but it has retreated, with average earnings growth down to 5 per cent and manufacturing unit labour cost inflation at just 1.7 per cent in the second quarter. But even if this trend continues in the right direction — and the concentration of unemployment increases in the previously overheating southern parts of the country suggests it will — it will take time for other parts of the economy to adjust to the new low inflation environment.

Foremost among these appears to be the property market. This year, it became clear that the ubiquitous "upward-only" rent adjustment clauses, designed for an era of endless inflation, were having a disastrous effect on the economy. These clauses have not prevented many property companies from going into administration — or being informally administered by their banking creditors — but they and the mentality behind them has almost certainly contributed to a significant number of bankruptcies among tenant companies, large and small.

Similar problems have emerged in the housing market. It badly needs more transactions, and in many cases that means lower prices. The large number of unsold properties provides good evidence that prices are still too high to bring demand and supply into line.

Lower prices would entice first-time buyers into the market, helping to clear the logjam of unsold properties and thereby improving conditions for housebuilders. Lower prices would encourage buyers generally who are still scared to commit funds for fear prices may decline further. Lower prices would also contribute to the disinflation mentality in the economy as a whole and help reduce wage inflation.

Unfortunately, there are institutional barriers preventing house prices from adjusting smoothly to a market clearing level. Press reports have focused on the large numbers caught in the "debt trap" — people whose home is worth less than their outstanding mortgage. They are likely to have difficulty in persuading the mortgage lender to allow them to sell. One reason is that lenders will usually be re-imposed by insurance.

companies if a borrower stays on in the house and then defaults, but will carry the whole loss themselves if they allow a sale, financed partly by an unsecured loan, on which the borrower subsequently reneges.

But even if borrowers do get permission to sell, the market would send them perverse signals. For example, someone with a £100,000 mortgage on a house now worth £80,000 might plan to reduce outgoings by moving to a cheaper home. Trading down to a £50,000 home, they would get at most a £45,000 mortgage, leaving them £25,000 to finance via an unsecured loan (£5,000 for a deposit plus the £20,000 shortfall). The trouble is that an unsecured loan, even if available, is much more expensive than a mortgage. So, despite moving and cutting total borrowings, this person would end up cutting interest payments by little or nothing.

People are thus being sent the wrong signals by the market — no wonder prices are not adjusting as they should.

There are no easy solutions to such problems. Rather than applying crude tax breaks across many homeowners, the better approach is probably a range of subtle institutional and tax changes for example, raising the now anachronistic limits on unsecured lending by the building societies, and possibly giving some tax relief proportionately to losses suffered by homeowners, balanced by a tax charge where gains are made.

But there is a broader lesson here. High inflation, with 4-5 per cent being a floor rather than a ceiling, has been part of the British economic scene for three decades. As inflation falls lower and lower, with figures in the 2 to 3 per cent range likely in the next six to nine months, more and more institutional problems will be exposed.

The government should be on the watch and looking for legal and regulatory changes to ease them. By doing this, it will reduce the economic, and hence political, cost of disinflation and help to convince one of the most sceptical groups of all that low inflation is here to stay.

This group is bond investors, whose residual doubts over the political commitment to low inflation are holding up gilt yields, in the face of falling inflation, and thus pushing real yields to high levels that surely cannot be sustainable.

GILES KEATING
Chief Economist
Credit Suisse First Boston

Hands off the spoiled baby at the Tokyo stock exchange

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

THE day, when Japanese authorities cut a stop a fall on the Tokyo stock market by raising an eyebrow at the large institutional buyers have long disappeared. The policy of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) now is hands-off.

Despite predictions by business leaders that a further decline in the Nikkei average could lead to financial panic, the MoF is not getting involved, analysts say. "The stock market is like a spoiled baby crying," said Jesper Koll, economist at SG Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc. "The Nikkei is not a policy variable that the MoF or Bank of Japan (BoJ) have influence over," Mr Koll said.

The Nikkei index has tumbled much of this week, closing below the key psychological 15,000 level on Tuesday, its lowest closing level in six years and some 61 per cent below its all-time high of 38,915.87 in December 1989.

The declines over the past two-and-a-half years have fuelled calls for a broad range of measures specifically designed to give share prices a lift, by making it easier for individual investors to buy shares, changing rules regulating futures deals, or even using public

funds to buy shares. Market watchers have speculated that the MoF could include these and other steps later this month in a broader package of fiscal pump priming that aims to lift the entire economy. But the MoF has recently pursued laissez-faire policies that would make Adam Smith proud.

"There are no measures that the MoF can adopt directly that would influence the market. Stock prices should be decided in the stock market," Tsutomu Hata, finance minister, told a news conference only days ago.

Many private analysts



Hata: hard line

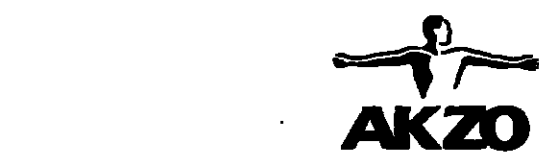
maintain that with almost full employment, low inflation and a sound fiscal condition, Japan has little to fear from weaker share prices. "There is little direct relationship between share prices and real economic growth," said Chiharu Shima, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd.

The faltering ability of the banks to lend is one commonly cited problem that weak shares could exacerbate. But the BoJ argues that demand for money is low anyway and many large companies are enjoying healthy financial positions.

In addition, Japan's financial authorities still seem haunted by nightmares of the bubble economy of the late 1980s, referring often to those days in defence of current policies.

Significant factions within the MoF would just let the stock market find its own level, and even overshoot to the downside, rather than risk re-inflating asset values with artificial attempts to shore up share prices, economists say.

"Stock prices usually reflect the economy, not the other way around," said Geoffrey Barker, senior economist at Baring Securities (Japan) Ltd.



Akzo nv Registered Office at Arnhem

Report for the 1st half year 1992

Consolidated statement of income

		January-June 1992	1991
Net sales	Millions of guilders	8,818.4	8,535.3
Operating costs		(8,091.8)	(7,914.2)
Operating income		726.6	621.1
Financing charges		(140.9)	(134.9)
Operating income less financing charges		585.7	486.2
Taxes		(184.4)	(175.1)
Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations, after taxes		401.3	311.1
Earnings from nonconsolidated companies		32.7	39.5
Extraordinary items		1.2	15.3
Group income		435.2	365.9
Minority interest		(11.1)	16.8
Net income		424.1	382.7
Net income per common share of Hfl 20, in guilders		9.23	8.33
Common stock		919.2	919.2

Sales and income
Net income for the past quarter was Hfl 218 million, compared with Hfl 191 million for the prior year's corresponding quarter. Operating income increased Hfl 54 million (16%) to Hfl 727 million, due especially to the improved contribution from chemical products.

Net income for the first half of 1992 was Hfl 424 million, up Hfl 41 million relative to the same period last year. Before extraordinary items the increase amounted to Hfl 55 million. Net income per common share for the first half of the year was Hfl 9.23 compared with Hfl 8.33 for the year-earlier period.

At Hfl 4.4 billion, sales for the second quarter of 1992 were 2% higher than in the same quarter last year. This increase is compounded of approximately 2% higher volume, a 2% higher average selling price level, and currency translation effects accounting for

a 2% decline. The net effect of divestitures and acquisitions was practically nil. Sales for the first half of the year aggregated Hfl 8.8 billion, up 3% from the first half of 1991.

Operating income of Hfl 727 million for the first half of 1992 is equivalent to 8.2% of sales, compared with 7.3% for the first half of 1991. For the second quarter these figures were 8.6% and 7.5% respectively.

Outlook
Provided that economic conditions in the second half of the year do not deteriorate further, we expect income before extraordinary items for the whole of 1992 to exceed the 1991 figure.

Arnhem, August 4, 1992

The Board of Management

Sales and operating income by product group break down as follows (in millions of guilders):

	1st half year 1992	1st half year 1991		1st half year 1992	1st half year 1991
Net sales			Operating income		
Chemical products	2,926	2,856	Chemical products	217	166
Coatings	2,176	1,907	Coatings	153	110
Fibers	2,083	2,310	Fibers	97	93
Healthcare products	1,645	1,496	Healthcare products	269	251
Miscellaneous products and intra-Group deliveries	(12)	(34)	Miscellaneous products and nonallocated items	(9)	1
Total	8,818	8,535	Total	727	621

Copies of the complete report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Bank PLC, Stock Exchange Services Department, 168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP and Midland Securities Service, Suffolk House, Paying Agency Section, 5 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC 4R 0EU.

The report for the 3rd quarter of 1992 will be published on November 3, 1992.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Shareholding	Price	Yield	Div	Yield	Stock	Shareholding	Price	Yield	Div	Yield
SHORTS (under 5 years)											
1,757	Each 13.7% 1992	100%	13.46	0.86		1,528	Trust 9% 2003	100%	10.1	0.45	0.34
600	Trust 9% 1993	96%	0.19	0.06		2,803	Trust 10% 2003	100%	10.1	0.46	0.10
982	Trust 8% 1993	96%	0.21	0.14		441	Fund 3% 1999-04	96%	1.1	0.26	7.63
1,450	Trust 10% 1993	96%	10.02	0.96		2,012	Conv 9% 2004	100%	11.1	0.28	0.11
1,020	Trust 12% 1993	102%	12.32	0.82		1,400	Trust 11% 2004-04	100%	11.1	0.28	0.52
1,082	Trust 12% 1993	100%	13.10	0.76		4,442	Conv 9% 2005	102%	12.1	0.24	0.10
2,100	Trust 8% 1994	96%	0.43	0.52		2,200	Trust 12% 2003-05	127%	12.1	0.28	0.36
1,400	Trust 9% 1994	96%	0.08	0.08							
1,000	Trust 10% 1994	100%	0.07	0.24		1,800	Trust 9% 2004-06	96%	10.1	0.26	0.01
1,200	Each 12% 1994	100%	11.90	0.66		2,200	Trust 11% 2005-07	115%	11.1	0.17	0.36
1,100	Each 12% 1994	100%	12.78	0.73		4,071	Trust 9% 2008	100%	10.1	0.38	8.97
350	Trust 14% 1994	100%	13.64	0.80		1,250	Trust 17% 2004-08	120%	12.1	0.47	0.35
214	Conv 9% 1995	100%	11.25	0.67		911	Trust 9% 2011	91%	10.1	0.27	8.08
2,400	Each 10% 1995	100%	10.07	0.52		2,002	Trust 9% 2008-12	96%	10.1	0.37	8.05
2,250	Trust 12% 1995	100%	11.43	0.50		1,000	Trust 9% 2008-12	96%	10.1	0.37	8.05
1,700	Conv 12% 1995	100%	11.22	0.48		700	Trust 7% 2012-15	100%	10.1	0.26	4.52
750	Trust 9% 1995-96	96%	0.06	0.22		1,000	Each 12% 2011-17	120%	12.1	0.26	0.02
2,400	Conv 10% 1996	100%	0.87	0.07							
800	Each 13% 1996	112%	11.41	0.65							
770	Trust 14% 1996	112%	12.07	0.67		276	Conv 2% 2%	27%	0.20	0.20	
1,100	Trust 15% 1996	110%	12.07	0.67		470	Trust 2%	27%	0.20	0.20	
1,700	Each 10% 1997	100%	10.11	0.39		30	Trust 3%	26%	0.20	0.20	
1,200	Trust 13% 1997	112%	11.21	0.58		127	Conv 3%	61%	0.20	0.20	
						356	Conv 4%	43%	0.20	0.20	
						1,094	Trust 1% 2%	38%	0.17	0.17	
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)											
4,400	Trust 8% 1992	92%	12.30	0.71							
830	Each 10% 1992	121%	12.30	0.71							
1,100	Trust 8% 1994-96	91%	7.20	0.42		500	Trust 11% 2% 1994	120%	12.1	0.42	4.26
2,250	Each 9% 1994	100%	0.61	0.37		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 1995	140%	12.1	0.42	4.27
1,400	Each 12% 1995	111%	11.11	0.61		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 2001	140%	12.1	0.42	4.27
918	Trust 15% 1995	100%	12.24	0.62		800	Trust 11% 2% 2003	140%	12.1	0.42	4.27
1,000	Trust 9% 1999	100%	0.38	0.18		1,200	Trust 11% 2% 2005	142%	12.1	0.42	4.48
1,700	Trust 10% 1999	100%	0.41	0.34		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 2008	140%	12.1	0.42	4.48
1,250	Trust 10% 1999	100%	0.41	0.34		1,200	Trust 11% 2% 2011	130%	12.1	0.42	4.48
2,000	Each 12% 1999	100%	10.46	0.20		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 2013	110%	11.1	0.42	4.56
2,000	Each 12% 1999	100%	10.46	0.20		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 2015	110%	11.1	0.42	4.56
4,150	Conv 9% 2000	110%	10.47	0.59		1,100	Trust 11% 2% 2020	110%	11.1	0.42	4.56
1,171	Trust 13% 2000	110%	10.47	0.59		400	Trust 11% 2% 2024	95%	11.1	0.42	4.43
4,200	Trust 10% 2001	104%	0.62	0.28							
970	Trust 14% 1994-01	119%	11.80	0.47							

1501 1000

Portfolio

£8,000
Claims required for
+44 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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365.45	Gr Portland	106	+ 6	50.9	12.6	0.7
17.60	Greylock	20	...	5.2
525.50	HK Land	94	- 1	...	5.4	...
67.30	Hannover Canyon	20	...	0.0	0.3	...
64.70	Hammerson	234	+ 10	20.5	11.7	10.8
281.60	"do "A"	216	- 12	20.5	12.7	10.8
15.90	Helical Bar	84	- 6	4.0	6.3	...
11.40	Hemlockway	21	...	...	...	...
25.50	Herring Baker	141	+ 1	7.0	6.6	7.3
2.70	Homery	136	...	1.5	1.5	...

1954.10	Lard Sec	362	+ 7	21.7	8.0	11.3
1954.05	Long Mutch Sec	67	- 1	3.8	7.6	10.7
1.42	Lon & Metro	2	...	...	...	...
1.16	Lon Securities	1	...	...	...	...
760.00	MEPC	235	+ 8	20.0	11.3	8.0
1.62	McGinney A	3	-
28.30	McKay Sns	104	...	6.4	8.2	8.7
7.33	Markham	6	...	0.5	11.1	...
1.66	Marview Mre	12	- 3	10.5	...	1.0

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1990-91	46	138.80	Refuge	660	-24	29.4
1991-92	35	-3	206.80	Royal	166	-1	11.1
1992-93	277	49	576.40	Sedgwick	147	-18	12.1

90	-2	3.5	5.0	-	36.80	Durden & Lon	210	-6	12.0
95	+3	7.0	9.8	14.9	5.77	EPM Inc TX	38,	+5	4.1
30	-1	...	...	...	6.90	-do- Div FY	40	+5	...

...and the fact that the *in vitro* and *in vivo* results are in good agreement.

739.30 Unk Groups	40	+1
739.30 Unk Newspapers	371	-12	21.0	7.5	14.3

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TOBACCO					
0040 BAT	723	1	33.6	6.2	22.2
0040 BAT	106	1	30.5	5.6	17.1

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100

All Blacks work hard for victory on emotional occasion for rugby union

South Africans back among the best

South Africa 24
New Zealand 27

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

SILVER medals again for South Africa but there was a golden glow on the horizon at Ellis Park on Saturday. Before 70,000 emotional spectators the Springboks returned to international rugby not, as they must have hoped, with victory but with something almost as valuable: the knowledge that, after eight years away, they can still compete with the world's best.

John Williams, their coach, is convinced that once his players have toured and received the chance to develop unit skills and self-confidence as a group they will become an outstanding XV. Bob Dwyer, whose Australians play South Africa in Cape Town on Saturday, agreed that now another country should be admitted to the world's leading group of Australia, New Zealand and England.

It was a remarkable, intense occasion resembling the old South Africa as much as the new: the flaunting of national flags, the heavy rhythms of rock music building the crowd up to fever pitch on a sun-bathed day, before the douche of reality — 40 minutes of utter domination by the men in black who established a 10-0 lead and left their opponents frantic for some crumbs of possession.

Botha, South Africa's captain, spoke of difficulties in communication with the referee over his team's lineout deficiencies which left them 17-3 behind in what is now the dominant set-piece area of the game. That was unfair on Sandy MacNeill, who had been speaking all week, and did so on the pitch too, of his intention to penalise lifting at the lineout.

Botha might more legitimately have complained of being roughed up twice by Fitzpatrick, the All Blacks' captain, long after the ball had gone in a first half when South African players were warned twice for foul play. Happily their rugby did the talking for them in an utterly transformed second half.

Whether it was the effect of the new laws which redistribute possession so that one side cannot tie down the other so effectively, or fatigue after two months of touring, as Fitzpatrick was inclined to believe, or the sheer ability of the Springboks backs, I remain uncertain, but a game that had been smouldering sullenly became



Black magic: Bunce breaks away with the ball to create an opening for New Zealand's first try against South Africa in Johannesburg

an uncontrollable blaze. From the comfort of a 17-point lead (twice), New Zealand were hugely relieved to win by three goals and two penalty goals to three goals and a penalty, their first victory at Ellis Park since 1928 and the highest points aggregate in the 38 international matches played between these countries. Gerber's second try, five minutes into injury time, was scored amid complete chaos as both sides brought on replacements for the injured backs, Tuigamala and Small.

Botha believed that his team lost by not accepting the greater number of scoring opportunities that came their way, that is less than fair to New Zealand, who have a notable record at accepting such chances and for whom the back row, and Tuigamala and Bunce stood out. It is easy enough to forget just how young in international experience many of these All Blacks are too and how well Preston fitted in at scrum half after the early loss of Strachan with a dislocated collarbone.

Saturday's evidence, though, suggests there is not much wrong with South Africa's scrum (they took the only tight head of the game) nor

with their back play. Small, on the right wing, had an outstanding match, blotted only when he dropped the ball trying to put it under his arm after van Renburg had split the defence and the line was at his mercy. The wing will play against the Australians in Cape Town if he recovers from a bruised shoulder, while Styger — who replaced Rodgers (hamstring strain) at loose head — retains his place in Cape Town.

SCORERS: South Africa: Try: Gerber (2). P. Muller. Conversions: Botha (3). Penalties: Botha (3). New Zealand: Try: Bunce. P. Muller. Conversions: Fox (3). Penalties: Fox (3).

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YACHTING

Youth Challenge uses winds to advantage

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN LERWICK, SHETLANDS

THE strong winds sweeping across the top of Scotland helped Matthew Humphries and his Youth Challenge crew move up from third to head the handicap listings yesterday as the Round Britain fleet closed on Lerwick, the second stop-over port in the 2,000-mile race.

At 11am yesterday, Ocean Leopard, Mike Slade's leading maxi, was off Lerwick, his crew hopeful of rounding Muckle Flugga at dusk and reach Lerwick sometime during the early hours today.

Boulder, Chris Little's 45ft trail leg winner on handicap, trailed Ocean Leopard by 50 miles and is expected to take second place later this morning.

It will be tomorrow before the leaders know whether they have held their time on handicap against the smaller favourites, including Humphries' 39ft Youth Challenge and Sunstone, the veter-

an 38ft yacht sailed by Tom and Vicky Jackson. Yesterday, Youth Challenge was lying in third place on the water ahead of Richard Fenhall's larger Swan 57, Noonmark, and the 64ft Quail of Wight skippered by Don Parr. Sunstone was lying sixth of the 26-strong fleet, but 30 miles ahead of her smaller rivals Clarionet and Deerstalker, which are bound to benefit if the winds remain southwest.

Dennis Conner pipped Harold Cudmore to the \$40,000 first prize by just 0.25pt in the Formula One Scottish grand prix held on the Clyde over the weekend. Cudmore, who flew in from Hawaii on Saturday to take over the helm of Clyde 2,000 from Chris Law, steered the Scottish yacht to victory in yesterday's final encounter.

RESULT: Formula One Scottish grand prix. Overall: 1. Sun and Snipe (D. Conner, US), 2. Clyde 2,000 (H. Cudmore, J. Beck, J. Bennett, US), 3. Deaf (France) (M. Pajot, F).

Shockwave takes title

NEVILLE Crichton's Farr 44, Shockwave, of New Zealand, with Tom Dodson steering and Chris Dickson tactician, won three out of five races to take the two-ton world championship in Hawaii (Malcolm McKean writes).

Frequently less than ten seconds covered five yachts. The series, involving seven of

the world's ten state-of-the-art two-tonners, demonstrated how exotic these yachts have become. This is the dilemma which haunts the RORC as it considers their inclusion in the Admiral's Cup.

RESULTS: 1. Shockwave (N. Crichton, Farr 44, NZ), 2. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 3. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 4. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 5. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 6. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 7. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 8. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 9. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 10. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 11. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 12. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 13. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 14. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 15. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 16. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 17. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 18. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 19. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 20. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 21. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 22. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 23. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 24. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 25. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 26. Lagoon (D. Dodson, Farr 44, NZ), 27. Lagoon (D. 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On the ball: Shearer, of Blackburn, beats Humphrey, of Palace, to a header

So," he said. "This is disappointing for me but these sort of things do happen."

Television takes the gloss off St Andrew's win

Birmingham receive a fine shot in the arm from Donowa

Birmingham City 1
Notts County 0

By Louise Taylor

THE Sunday servers at St Andrew's yesterday turned into a celebration of Birmingham City's promotion to the first division. Only a surprisingly low crowd of 10,641 could detract from victory over newly relegated Notts County. Or perhaps that figure should not have raised eyebrows.

Central Television's enthusiasm for screening their matches on Sunday dawns that Birmingham do not have a scheduled Saturday home fixture until October, at least.

Maybe the cameras had something to do with the plentiful places on the St Andrew's terracing — or were

the stay-away supporters simply put off by City's appalling new blue and yellow speckled kit. Looking at a walking advertisement for bad-taste wallpaper, Birmingham still managed to take a ninth-minute lead.

The decisive goal arrived against the run of play but was a memorable way in which to cement a return from exile in the old third division.

With County only managing to half-clear the ball, it fell to Louie Donowa, lurking wide on the left and a good 25 yards out. His spectacular right-foot volley took a deflection before leaving Cherry with no chance in the County goal. Donowa continued to

tease — he created an inviting opportunity from which Frain's cross was blocked — but Sale's lack of pace let Birmingham down on

occasions. To be fair to the forward, he was being marked by Craig Short, Notts County's resolute defender who attracted £2.5 million bids from Blackburn Rovers and Derby County last week. Short has had better, not to mention more arduous afternoons but he was generally dependable and even showed a willingness to go forward when circumstances allowed. It was among County's recognised forwards that Matthews demonstrated the best touch on view. A geography student at Loughborough University until this summer, he came closest to an equaliser with a header against the underside of the bar from Draper's cross early in the second half.

Salisbury, Thomas again missed Goggin's crossing with his eye-catching rising shot, clear-cut chances were thin on the ground. County are no object of beauty but remain sufficiently strident to ensure survival, at least.

Like County, Birmingham — who almost doubled the score when Rodgerson hit a post at the death — will probably fall short of promotion this season. They have some nice ideas and neat touches but too many worries. Or at least, their manager, Terry Cooper, does. "I'm worried all this television will encourage people not to come to games," Birmingham, he added, would normally have expected a minimum attendance of 15,000 for yesterday's fixture and a total revenue of £5,000 more —

taking into account the £20,000 television fee — had the cameras not been present. BIRMINGHAM CITY: A Goggin (1), J. Frain, D. Rogers, R. Matthews, P. Tait, M. Sale, N. Gough, S. Salisbury (sub: R. Hodgson).

NOTTS COUNTY: S. Cherry, D. Palmer, D. Thomas, C. Short, M. Johnson, D. O'Halloran, M. Draper (sub: P. Handley), A. Williams, A. Agnew, R. Matthews (sub: K. Wilson), D. Smith. Referee: A. Ward.



Cause for celebration: Chapman rejoices after his first goal for Leeds

Allen shows poise to propel West Ham

A STUNNING goal from Clive Allen gave West Ham United a fine start to the first division with a 1-0 victory at Barnsley yesterday (Louise Taylor writes). Allen displayed his skill and poise after 22 minutes when he turned cleverly in the area to leave Gary Fleming on the floor before calmly placing a 12-yard shot past Lee Butler.

West Ham, who had Mike Spill sent off for foul and abusive language seven minutes before time, found Mel Machin's side a handful at times but had the edge on the break. David Currie almost scored an equaliser near the end when he hit the woodwork from 20 yards.

The highest attendance on Saturday was recorded not in

the Premier League but the first division. Newcastle United attracted 28,545 for their fixture with Southampton and the supporters were rewarded with a 3-2 win.

Their joy was complete on learning that their rivals, Sunderland, had lost 1-0 to Swindon Town, whose player-manager, Glenn Hoddle, scored a league goal for the first time since his Tottenham Hotspur days.

Derby County experienced an unscheduled 1-0 defeat by newly promoted Peterborough United, where Charley scored the goal, while at Leicester City, their former manager, David Pleat, saw his present Luton Town team lose 2-1, with Whitlow claiming the winner in the last minute.

Ardiles plots new way for Albion

By Keith Blackmore

OSVALDO Ardiles, the new West Bromwich Albion manager, made his intentions clear before his team launched its campaign for promotion from the second division with a 3-1 win against Blackpool.

"You will notice a difference in the kind of football we will be playing," he wrote in the programme. "It won't be as direct as last season. We hope it will be entertaining and effective."

The revolt by Albion supporters against the methods of Bobby Gould, even when they carried the club briefly to the top of the division, was one of the more interesting developments of last season and Ardiles clearly feels he has a mandate for the stylish approach.

His team did enough at The Hawthorns on Saturday to suggest it can follow the recent precedent of Tranmere Rovers and Brentford and gain promotion from the lower divisions without resorting to the long ball.

Three goals in four minutes brought the game to life. After 20 minutes, Fereday's cross found Taylor, whose header gave Albion the lead. Three minutes later, McNally added another.

Blackpool, newly promoted but weakened by injuries, were in danger of being swept away but a minute later a poorly executed back pass by Hunter

gave Rodwell the chance to run through and pull a goal back. Blackpool had the better of things for a while thereafter, despite conceding a penalty — taken by Shakespeare — which McIlhenny saved. When Blackpool had a penalty, Naylor saved Andy Garner's shot. When Taylor increased Albion's lead with a well-placed volley, the contest was over.

Ardiles was almost satisfied. "We passed the ball nicely for the first two goals and moved the ball around but we didn't do it enough," he said.

Lou Macari, the manager of the other most fancied team for promotion, Stoke City, would have settled for such a performance. Instead, his team went down to a goal eight minutes from time by Hunter, of Mill City. In the third division, Watford made a bright start, beating Carlisle United 4-3 away, one of their goals coming from Wayne Clarke, and Crewe Alexandra lived up to pre-season expectations by beating Tranmere United 4-2. Colchester United resumed their League career by beating Lincoln City 2-1.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION: S. Naylor, W. Fereday (sub: S. Hodgson), S. J. Smith, R. Hunter, G. Strindberg, C. Blackmore, S. Garner, C. Henderson, R. Taylor, S. McIlhenny, G. Rodwell.

BLACKPOOL: S. McIlhenny, M. Davies, J. Murphy, P. Davies, G. Girdle, A. Girdle (sub: M. Boman), A. Rodwell, T. Stacey, D. Duffell, A. Garner (sub: D. Robinson), D. Foy. Referee: M. Bailey.

Leeds benefit from Joseph's dilemma

Leeds United 2
Wimbledon 1

By Ian Ross

WHATEVER the implications of the back-pass rule and however unfair it would be to say that the contentious new rule was solely responsible for Leeds making a winning start in the defence of their title on Saturday, it unquestionably had a bearing on the outcome of an engaging match at Elland Road.

Joseph, the Wimbledon right back, was the unfortunate party. As he went to meet McAllister's fiercely-driven cross in the fourteenth minute, he was torn between removing the ball from the danger area with an unconstructive clearance and delivering to his goalkeeper a pass which Segers would, in

all probability, have been unable to gather up.

Ultimately Joseph's indecision was final. His hesitancy was punished by the predatory Chapman, who stole the ball off his toe before steering home a low shot for the first Leeds goal.

No doubt mindful that his own team looked equally uncomfortable when faced by the same dilemma, Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, found sympathy for Joseph's plight. Under normal circumstances a good full back would have knocked that ball back to his goalkeeper," he conceded.

The fact that Leeds were unable to breach Wimbledon's defence by more conventional means during the remainder of a half which they totally dominated served to emphasise not only their own shortcomings in front of goal

but also the good fortune which was enjoyed by their opponents.

Having negotiated a period of unrelenting Leeds pressure without sustaining any further damage, Wimbledon, described by Wilkinson before the game as "party poopers par excellence", briefly threatened to collect an undeserved point when Barton's outrageous long-range-shot-cum-cross in the 76th minute drifted over the head of Lukic.

It was left to Chapman to restore a semblance of sanity with a sweetly driven shot delivered four minutes before the final whistle.

If the afternoon was satisfactory for Leeds in a collective sense, several individuals had good reason to rue their manager's avowed intent to base upon a squad system his pursuit of excellence.

Strachan, the catalytic force

behind the club's remarkable renaissance, was restricted to a brief, albeit influential, appearance as a substitute while Rocastle, purchased from Arsenal at a cost of £2 million last month, progressed no further than the main stand.

"It is easy to explain David's absence," Wilkinson said. "I picked what I felt was the best team for this game: the team I felt had the best chance of winning. The nature of this competition, the League, is such that players must get used to the disappointment of being left out and then take their chance when it comes along."

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic, J. Newsome (sub: G. Strachan), A. Barton, D. Bailey (sub: S. Hodgson), C. Fairclough, C. Wylie, E. Cantona, R. Williams, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed.

WIMBLEDON: H. Segers, R. Joseph, G. Elom, W. Barton, J. Smith (sub: D. Rodwell), S. Fitzgerald, P. Miller, R. Lyle, D. Holdsworth, L. Sanchez, A. Clarke (sub: G. Dobbs). Referee: G. Ashby.

FA examines Ferguson's criticism of referee



Ferguson: incensed

AS IF losing the opening day's game was not bad enough for Alex Ferguson, there could be further, more serious consequences for the Manchester United manager following his public criticism of Brian Hill, the referee in their 2-1 defeat by Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on Saturday (Clive White writes).

Ferguson has been reported as saying: "We will be making a vigorous protest about this man. We don't want him refereeing our matches again."

We protested about him three years ago and said we didn't want him any more."

A Football Association (FA) official said yesterday that they would examine "what the Manchester United manager is supposed to have said" before deciding whether any disciplinary action was necessary. Since there was no suggestion that Ferguson complained directly to the Kettering official, the FA may have to ask Ferguson if he was quoted accurately.

Ferguson was incensed, in particular, about Hill's decision to refuse his team a penalty for a first-half challenge by Tracy, the Sheffield goalkeeper, on Gigg. "At Wimbledon three years ago he [Hill] turned down three penalty appeals," Ferguson said.

Deane had scored the first goal in the Premier League after five minutes before adding a second for Sheffield United from the penalty spot. Mark Hughes replied for Manchester United.

ATHLETICS

Jackson advances towards world record ambition

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

COLIN Jackson set a European and Commonwealth 110 metres hurdles record in the Cologne grand prix yesterday, but his was not the performance of the meeting. Moses Kiptanui, for whom no place could be found in the Kenyan Olympic team, broke Said Aouita's three-year-old world record for the 3,000 metres.

After finishing seventh in the Olympic final, Jackson said that the only way he could console himself for his failure to win the gold medal was by trying to ensure that he finished the season ranked as the world's No. 1. His other ambition, he said, was to challenge Roger Kingdom's world record of 12.92sec. Yesterday Jackson moved 0.02sec closer, running 13.04 to improve the European and Commonwealth wealth record of 13.06 which he set at the 1990 Commonwealth Games.

For the second time in their two meetings since Barcelona, Jackson defeated the Olympic champion, Mark McKoy, of Canada. McKoy matched Jackson over the first three hurdles before the Welshman drew away. McKoy held his ground for second place in 13.16, with Tony Jarrett, Britain's best finisher in the Olympics and in the world championships last year, third in 13.26.

Afterwards Jackson repeated his intention to go for the world record this season.

"That's what I'm hoping to do," he said. "I am in such great shape at the moment. I am consistent around 13.1 seconds and, if I can keep my head together, I might be on for Roger's record." The fact that Jackson shaved the second and eighth hurdles yesterday demonstrates room for improvement.

The crowd of 40,000 in the Mungersdorfer stadium had come in the hope of seeing a world record in the 3,000 metres, but had been told to expect it from Dieter Baumann, the Olympic 5,000 metres champion from nearby Leverkusen. Baumann, though, lost centre stage to Kiptanui over the last 1,000 metres when the Kenyan remarkably made up a four-second deficit on world record schedule to run 7min 28.96sec. Aouita's world record was 7:29.45.

Kiptanui, 20, said that he had come with no intention of breaking the record. "I was not thinking of breaking the world record because I was told Baumann was going to break it," Kiptanui said.

Linford Christie, Britain's Olympic 100 metres champion, suffered only his second defeat of the season. He had lost to Olapade Adeniken, of Nigeria, in Lausanne and it was Adeniken who beat him again, running 10.13sec to Christie's 10.15 for second place.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Featherstone lose Fox after Leeds deal flops

By Christopher Irvine

DERYCK Fox, the Featherstone Rovers captain and Great Britain scrum half, has told the second division club that he will not be starting the new season with them following the failure at the weekend to agree on a £200,000 transfer deal with Leeds.

Fox, 27, returned from Great Britain's summer tour, during which he became one of the game's hottest properties, enjoying highly complimentary reports, to captain Featherstone, the undefeated midweek side.

He now faces a possible period of redundancy, with Featherstone rejecting two offers from Halifax, and refusing to concede any significant price concessions to Leeds.

Bradford Northern emerged yesterday as Fox's last chance of a future in the first division.

"They are beginning talks this week and I just hope an agreement can be reached because after nine years at Featherstone, I really cannot afford not to play on the big stage, just as my career form seems to be peaking," Fox said.

Leeds are looking once more to Wigan and the transfer-listed Andy Gregory to fill the scrum half position vacated by Bobby Goulding's move to Widnes in exchange for Alan Tait.

Gary Divorty and John Bentley, who was the top try scorer for Leeds last season, are having transfer talks with Halifax.

Jim Fallon, the former Bath and England B winger, marked his league debut for Leeds with two tries in a 22-6 friendly win against Nottingham.

POLO

Garth branch prevails in under-21 category

THE Pony Club championships, which have been contested by more than 80 teams at 13 clubs during the past month, were concluded over the weekend at Cowdray Park, Sussex, where 54 finalists competed in four age categories (John Watson writes).

The Gannon Trophy (for under-21s) was won 5-3 by the Garth branch against the Staff College, who received two. Nalhez Gonzalez and Tarquin Southwell scored the Garth goals.

The VWH, coming top of the under-18 Rendell class, carried off the main champ-

ionship Bank of Ireland Trophy. The Old Berks won the under-16 Loriners Trophy.

The Southdown East, playing a two-chukka final at Ambersham yesterday, beat the Royal Artillery branch in a race decided following a 1-1 draw in the Handley Cross (under-14) category.

WINNING TEAMS: Garth (Garth Trophy); 1, Old Berks; 2, Southdown; 3, N. Gonzalez; 4, M. Dolar, VWH (Rendell); 1, H. McLaughlin; 2, F. Bray; 3, S. Dill; 4, A. Kelson-Tipp; Old Berks (Loriners); 1, K. Leach; 2, J. Hagg; 3, H. Thomas; 4, D. Spain. Southdown East (Handley Cross); 1, H. Conley; 2, E. West; 3, N. Downshill; 4, T. P. Storer.

OTHER WINNERS: Teacup Trophy: Pritchley Priests; The Lodsworth Shield: E. Tait; The Mary Taylor Trophy: Tamara Vessey; The Polo Viceroy Award: D. Stait.

MORE STITCHES AND RIVETS THAN GAZZA'S KNEE



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Cork adds the fizz to England's flat selection for series



Cork: great potential

BY NAMING last winter's World Cup side, all but entire, for this week's Texaco Trophy international against Pakistan, England's selectors have firmly closed the one eye they should have had on the future. It is a pragmatic, predictable and dimly unenterprising choice.

The one imaginative inclusion is that of Dominic Cork, just 21 and an all-round talent of enormous potential. Even this progressive thinking, however, transpires to have been a reluctant afterthought as Cork's place would have gone to Derek Pringle if he had not excused himself on fitness grounds.

Pringle, who might equally have been excused by his listless performance in the Oval Test, is thus the one member of England's World Cup final team who will be missing when the party assembles in Nottingham tomorrow. Remarkably, it includes Ian Botham and at least two others who appeared to have drawn their international pension papers. Cladstone Small and Richard Illingworth. It also means that Dermot Reeve regains his place on fitness evidence of form and Phil DeFreitas regains his on flimsy evidence of fitness.

Micky Stewart, the team

manager, went to Hove yesterday to watch DeFreitas bowl, but stressed that he was satisfied the player was fit. If this is so, then DeFreitas plays without argument, such is his standing, but three frenetic limited-overs games in five days may not be exactly what his deep-seated groin condition needs at this stage.

Illingworth's return is

one-day record is steady but his presence insulates both Tufnell and Salisbury. Quite what Small is doing in the party is a mystery, possibly even to him. He was whisked up for the World Cup, with modest success, and he was chosen in the squad for the first two Texaco games this summer but did not play. He has taken only 13 wickets at 45 runs apiece in one-day cricket this year, while Tim Munton, one of seven casualties from the last Test party, has taken 22 wickets at half the cost and a better economy rate.

Reeve has spent the year

and, although he has batted respectably, his bowling figures are dire. In first-class games his nine wickets have cost 49 runs each and in the limited-overs competitions he has taken eight at 38. Reeve and Small will presumably contest the last place in England's XI with Cork, whose outstanding bowling and forthright batting should be a part of the set-up for years to come. He is, I think, self-possessed enough to withstand the Botham comparisons which began long ago and will reach a pitch this week, when he may play his first international and Botham his 114th.

The only man in the side to have played more often is Allan Lamb and if there is greater merit in his inclusion, aged 38, it is because he is in irresistible form and wants to go on tour this winter. Botham is in average form and is unavailable to tour. His recall could have been put down to the fact that all three games are already sold out.

Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, justifies his squad by saying that the tour was not considered, only the winning of these three games. This will be comforting news for David Gower, whose open disdain

for one-day cricket may have contributed to his omission. Dexter also says that this is not a restricted 13 and that changes may be made at any stage. The hint is that the selectors will start to consider the future if the first game, on Thursday, they will, however, have to move fast to install anybody at that stage, as a full round of championship games begins the next day.

ENGLAND PARTY: G A Gough (Essex), A J Stewart (Sussex), R A Smith (Hampshire), A J Lamb (Northamptonshire), A J Cook (Gloucestershire), G A Hick (Worcestershire), I T Banton (Durham), C G Lewis (Nottinghamshire), A J Bailey (Leicestershire), P A J DeFreitas (Lancashire), D G Cork (Derbyshire), R K Illingworth (Worcestershire), G C Small (Worcestershire).

Ramprakash and Carr steady nerves

Middlesex wrap up long-awaited Sunday League title

By RICHARD STREETON

UXBRIDGE (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Yorkshire by five wickets

MIDDLESEX won the Sunday League for the first time yesterday after this hard earned victory. Middlesex made a poor start as they set out to make 195 to win before Carr and Ramprakash turned the tide with a century stand for the fourth wicket.

It was the fourth win Middlesex have gained this season to equal the league record set by Sussex in 1982. Two leg-byes finally completed the Middlesex success and the 3,500 crowd swarmed across the field to watch Ted Dexter, the England committee chairman, present the champions' £25,000 prize-money to Mike Gatting, the Middlesex captain.

Gatting said: "Obviously I am delighted. It has been a great team effort. I am particularly pleased for the side. The members of the side, like Weekes and Headley and Carr on his return. Their success in support of our season and Embury, the senior spinner, has been a big factor for us."

"Our batting, too, had been remarkably consistent and I must single out Haynes as the star. His frequent lengthy stays at the wicket guaranteed

	P	W	L	N	R	Pts
Middlesex (11)	15	14	1	0	0	56
Sussex (9)	15	10	5	0	0	44
Hants (17)	15	9	6	0	0	36
Leicestershire (17)	15	8	7	0	0	32
Surrey (9)	15	8	7	0	0	32
Warwick (9)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Durham (17)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Derbyshire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Gloucestershire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Lancashire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Nottinghamshire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Northants (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Yorkshire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Worcestershire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Wiltshire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Devon (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Gloucestershire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Worcestershire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Wiltshire (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28
Devon (15)	15	7	8	0	0	28

1991 positions in brackets

us big totals in most of the matches and Roseberry and others, of course, have also scored runs.

"Apart from myself, we have also been greyhounds in the field."

For once this year, though, Haynes, Roseberry and Gatting were destined to make small contributions to the score. Middlesex were 52 for three after 15 overs with these three front-rank batsmen dismissed. First, Haynes was caught at long leg and Roseberry at deep extra cover in the same over by Hartley. Then Gatting got a leading edge against Pickles and gave cover a catch. Ramprakash and Carr, however, stood firm with a stand of 107 in 20 overs. They became increasingly confident, the turning-

point coming when Ramprakash pulled Jarvis for a massive six over square leg. When Ramprakash was stumped, moving out against Tendulkar, 36 were wanted from five overs.

Carr, bowling brisk off cutters and Weekes, the off spinner for six over mid-wicket, the over costing 15 as Weekes, too, drove and pulled fiercely. Weekes hit four fours in a nine-ball stay for 20 before he was caught down the leg side off Jarvis, before Middlesex went on to win with seven balls to spare. Carr was undefeated with a splendidly paced 60 not out.

Carr, bowling brisk off cutters and Weekes, the off spinner, were the bowlers who earlier had checked a spirited start by Yorkshire. They began like a runaway express train and had averaged nearly five an over from the start when Tendulkar took them past 100, with an effortless on-drive against Embury for six.

Carr and Weekes bowled their eight overs in harness changed from the 23rd over onwards. First, Haynes was caught at long leg and Roseberry at deep extra cover in the same over by Hartley. Then Gatting got a leading edge against Pickles and gave cover a catch. Ramprakash and Carr, however, stood firm with a stand of 107 in 20 overs. They became increasingly confident, the turning-



Forcing stroke: Kelleth, of Yorkshire, reaches 50 at Uxbridge with a four off Embury

Pakistanis decide on batting again for extra practice

By JOHN WOODCOCK

BRISTOL (second day of three): Gloucestershire won toss; the Pakistanis, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 418 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

IT IS a long time since the standard of English cricket was shown up in quite as poor a light as it has been by the Pakistanis this summer. They were at it again yesterday, dismissing Gloucestershire for 123 and deciding that, in spite of a first-innings lead of 234, the prospect of batting again was too enticing to be resisted.

They were able to indulge themselves to this extent and still finish the day within comfortable reach of a ninth victory in their 12 three-day matches against the first-class counties. Those who have succeeded, in their innocence, in introducing an exclusively four-day championship programme for 1993, on the grounds that three days are no longer enough to achieve results on good pitches without a fiddle of some kind, must be wondering what is going on.

Although heavy overnight rain delayed yesterday's start by 75 minutes, the pitch was unaffected. It was true enough and not as slow as many at Bristol. But without Walsh to bowl and Athey to sell his wicket-dearly, and against some admirable cricket, Gloucestershire have put less than taken resistance.

The Pakistanis bowled them out yesterday in under three hours without need of Mushtaq's leg breaks and googlies, which, all being well,

are a pleasure in store for today. With Wagar taking the match off, Akram and Aqib shared the wickets. They pitched the ball up and were usually doing a little something with it. They had plenty of support too: half the crowd must have come from the local and understandably cock-a-hoop Pakistani community.

Akram has now taken 76 wickets on the tour in 475 overs at 17 apiece. There were times yesterday when he was off a run of no more than five or six paces, and others when he pulled out most of the stops. He is rather like Keith Miller in this way, doing what he feels like and enjoying in his great natural skill.

For Gloucestershire, Dawson, another of Millfield's ample nursery, won some wickets by batting for 26 overs. Hancock looked a cricketer, albeit briefly, and Williams and Davies hit cheerfully enough to take the total past 100. But it was not until the Pakistanis batted after tea that there was any stroke-play to speak of. Then, even Jiz, only recently arrived from Pakistan and out of practice, managed to sparkle for a while.

The tide is for Jiz to play in the three remaining one-day internationals, the first of them at Trent Bridge on Thursday, and I expect it was partly to give him some batting that the Pakistanis opted to go in again. They lost two days to the rain at Taunton last week and want to give themselves the best chance they can of turning round the one-day series.

Leics v Surrey

THE OVAL (second day of three): Leicestershire, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 102 runs ahead of Surrey. LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 216 (N J Wells 56, N M Marshall 6 for 61). Second Innings 32. Surrey: First Innings 104. Surrey: Second Innings 104. Surrey: Third Innings 104. Surrey: Fourth Innings 104. Surrey: Fifth Innings 104. Surrey: Sixth Innings 104. Surrey: Seventh Innings 104. Surrey: Eighth Innings 104. Surrey: Ninth Innings 104. Surrey: Tenth Innings 104. Surrey: Eleventh Innings 104. Surrey: Twelfth Innings 104. Surrey: Thirteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Fourteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Fifteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Sixteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Seventeenth Innings 104. Surrey: Eighteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Nineteenth Innings 104. Surrey: Twentieth Innings 104. Surrey: Twenty-first Innings 104. Surrey: Twenty-second Innings 104. Surrey: Twenty-third Innings 104. Surrey: Twenty-fourth Innings 104. Surrey: Twenty-fifth Innings 104. 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Cook and Sauers take a firm grip on golf's US PGA championship after third round

Faldo regains the spring in his step to launch challenge

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

NICK Faldo has played some exceptional rounds of golf in his career and his intention to compile another was abundantly clear in the US-PGA championship at the Belle River Country Club here yesterday.

The spring was back in his step in the spring-like conditions as he launched his final round with birdies at each of the first two holes. It was a signal to Gene Sauers, the overnight leader, that he was still a threat.

Faldo had slipped out of contention with a third round of 76, finishing eight shots behind Sauers. He is a master at repairing his game and he appeared to have done exactly that following a lengthy session with David Leadbetter.

His opening drive was straight, if not long, and he found the green with a glorious approach. His putt of 22 feet looked in the hole, from the moment he struck it and he strode purposefully on to the 2nd, when he made a putt of four feet for another birdie. Faldo narrowly missed a birdie from 15 feet at the 4th and he left short a putt of 20 feet for a two at the 6th.

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	234	4	10	455	4
2	185	3	11	404	4
3	255	5	12	179	3
4	185	3	13	425	4
5	281	5	14	222	3
6	425	4	15	454	4

Out 3,829 36 In 3,820 36

Total yardage: 7,148 Par: 71

Sauers had gained a two-shot cushion ahead of Jeff Maggert, another American, and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, with a third round of 70 on Saturday. His 54-hole score of 206, seven under par, owed much to an eagle from 25 feet at the 17th.

Even so, Sauers was less than confident about holding the putt. "There were three big spike marks about four inches from the hole," he said. "To get to the hole, the ball had to go between them." Sauers, though, coaxed the ball home with the minimum of fuss.

Sauers has won only twice since he joined the US PGA Tour in 1984 but has finished runner-up on two occasions this season.

John Cook, the American

who forfeited a clear chance to win the Open last month, beat Sauers in a play-off for the Bob Hope Classic in January. Cook emerged as a contender here when, with a third round of 67, he joined Jim Gallagher Jr on 210. Mark Brooks, another American, was the only other player under par entering the final round.

The greens, with their piebald texture, have become tricky when baked by a hot sun, as was the case at the weekend. Faldo took three putts on three occasions during his 76. He blamed his long game, which lacked authority, but he was still a victim of the greens. His confidence waned and he came close to equalling his highest score in 69 rounds this year, of 77.

Steve Richardson also faltered on Saturday when he took 75 and his hopes of recovering vanished when he began his final round with two bogies. Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, who joined Faldo and Richardson on 214 with a third-round 70, maintained his challenge with a birdie at the 1st. Forsbrand, however, took six at the 5th.

Colin Montgomerie dropped a shot at his first hole but he recovered with birdies at the next two holes, where he holed from four feet and eight feet. He went on to make a two at the 6th from 20 feet and he was out in 33 with a putt of 18 feet for a birdie at the 9th. But the Scot dropped three shots in a row from the 11th.

Mark James, who missed the cut in four tournaments out of six before finishing runner-up in the BMW International Open a week ago, will have been boosted by playing four rounds here. He finished with a third successive round of 72 for a total of 291.

EARLY FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 288: N Oishi (Japan), 87; 290: B Fabel (Sw), 89; D Edwards (GB), 72; 292: J Stewart (GB), 72; 293: P Sauer (Aus), 72; 294: J Maggert (Aus), 72; 295: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 296: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 297: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 298: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 299: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 300: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 301: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 302: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 303: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 304: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 305: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 306: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 307: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 308: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 309: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 310: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 311: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 312: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 313: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 314: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 315: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 316: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 317: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 318: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 319: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 320: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 321: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 322: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 323: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 324: J O'Connell (Ire), 72; 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For once, luck is on Briton's side as he wraps up world championship

Mansell achieves crowning glory

FROM NORMAN HOWELL
IN BUDAPEST

THIRTY years after he first drove a miniature go-kart and dreamed of becoming a hero, Nigel Mansell yesterday became Formula One motor racing world champion.

The 39-year-old British driver, in his Williams-Renault, was second to Ayrton Senna, the outgoing champion, after 77 tough, uncompromising laps at the Hungarian grand prix. That was enough to give Mansell an unassailable lead in the world championship with five of 16 grands prix remaining.

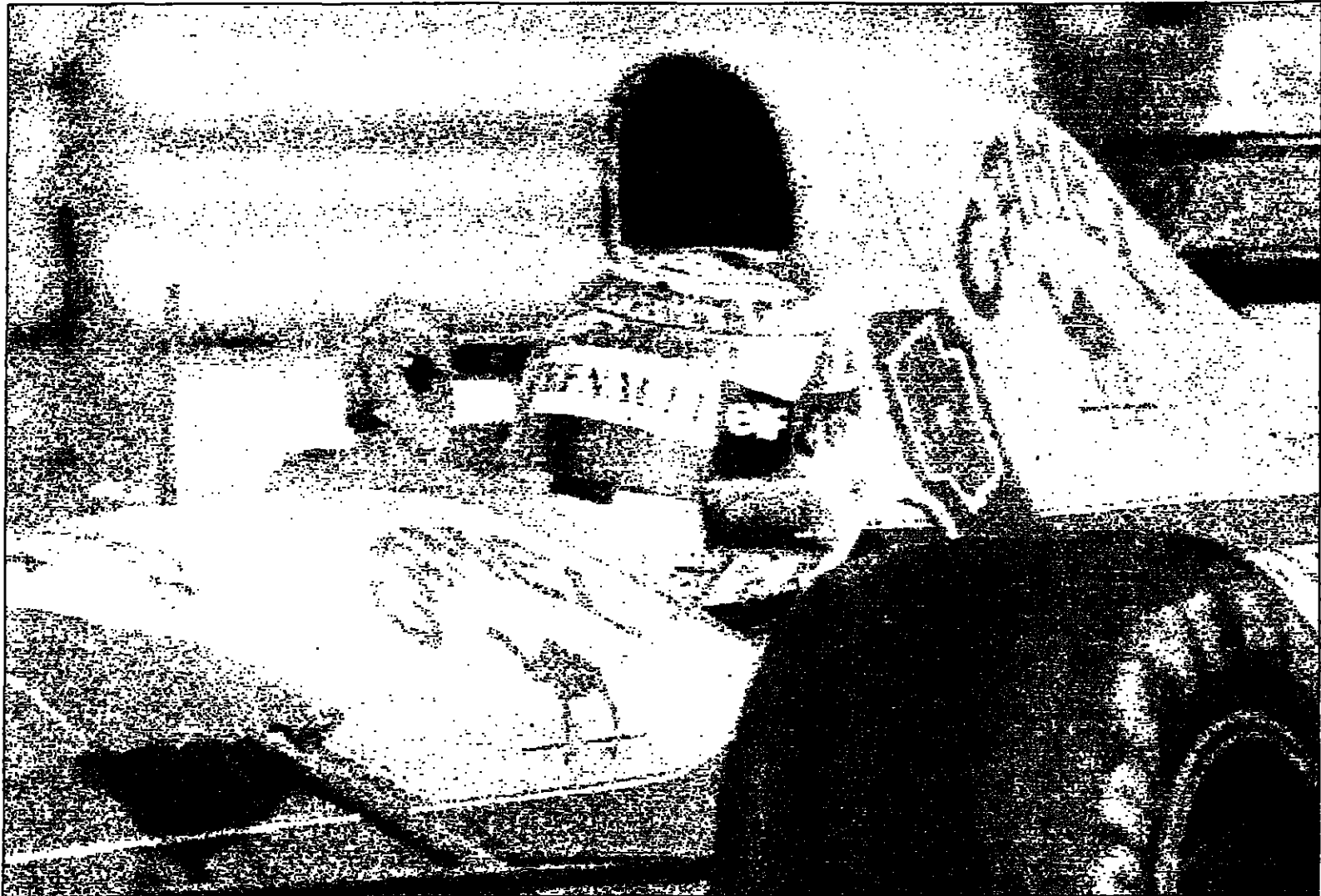
But Mansell, so often thwarted on the brink of triumph, was nearly denied again. Fifteen laps from the end, he must have thought his evil genie had come back to taunt him as he heard Patrick Head, Williams-Renault's engineering chief, screaming at him over the in-car radio to return to the pits as the monitoring equipment had picked up a puncture in one of Mansell's rear tyres.

His puncture at Adelaide, 12 laps from the end in 1989... the wheel nut lost in Hungary a year after that... another wheel nut lost in the pit stop in Portugal last year. All of them must have flashed through Mansell's mind as he drove into the pits.

Just under nine seconds later, he roared out of the pit lane, down from second to sixth place.

"I had to just keep concentrating at keeping everything together, thinking of how I was going to get through all the cars that had been behind me when I stopped and that now were in front. And I did it," Mansell said.

Ironically, Frank Williams, the head of the team, had taped over one of the cockpit warning lights that came on when the tyre lost pressure; it had been playing up during practice, and it was decided to deactivate it. Thus Mansell would not have known about



Victory salute: Mansell celebrates his championship success after finishing second in the Hungarian grand prix

the puncture, at least in its early stages. He had to trust Head's decision to call him in. He had to risk dropping out of the points and having to delay his coronation as champion.

When he rejoined the race, his team-mate, Riccardo Patrese, was leading by a huge margin from Senna and his McLaren-Honda team-mate, Gerhard Berger.

But Patrese spun off, and Mansell overtook four of the best drivers on the narrow,

twisting circuit.

The intensity of the success showed in the joy of Frank Williams, immobile in his wheelchair, surrounded by his team and its hundreds of supporters; the tears of Valerie Jorquera, the Elf chemist who had had the fingers of suspicion pointed at her for months because of whispers that the Williams team was racing on super fuel; and the embrace between Mansell and his wife Rosanne, a long one, a huge thank you to a woman who has stood by her man at the very worst moments.

Mansell was rather lost for words at the post-race conference. "I still can't believe it. I have been second twice to Ayrton and once to Alain (Prost). The team had agreed the pit board would put out an OK if I'd done it. But I still couldn't really believe it." Rosanne said she had "walked miles", up and down the garage, during the race.

Mansell was second into the first corner, squeezed out by Patrese — no team orders there — and was overtaken by both Senna and Berger. Mansell was fourth at the end of the first lap and perhaps happy with that; cars had been spinning off everywhere, and any of them could have hit him and ended his race.

Then he overtook Berger and had a little go at Senna, but he could not get past him. And so it went on, with Mansell looming large in Senna's rearview mirror. Mansell was so focused on his Brazilian rival that he did not see Berger strike on the inside.

Two laps later, Mansell overtook Berger and Senna, only to be halted by the call from Head. But the genie was not with Mansell this time.

Triumph for a man fuelled by a burning ambition

FROM NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell, yesterday won motor racing's Formula One world championship and achieved the target he had set himself 30 years ago. His second place in the Hungarian grand prix gave him enough points to be certain of the title, even though there are five of the season's 16 grands prix remaining.

Mansell, 39, has won the title barely a year after he had talked seriously of retiring, frustrated at lacking a car fast and sound enough to match his burning ambition. He becomes the seventh Briton to win the world championship, following Mike Hawthorn (1958), Graham Hill (1962 and 1968), Jim Clark (1963 and 1965), John Surtees (1964), Jackie Stewart (1969, 1971 and 1973), and James Hunt (1976).

Mansell has been driving fast since the age of nine, when he started competing in karts. His career has been one of hard graft, extreme bad luck and great courage. He

has broken his neck — having to race with a neck brace — and twice severely damaged his back. In 1977, he and his wife, Rosanne, had to sell their house to finance racing in Formula Ford, a minor, "step-up" category; he won 32 of 42 races that season and it led him eventually to a drive with Lotus, the great Formula One team run by Colin Chapman.

That was in 1980. Since then, he has twice come close to the championship with the Williams team and twice while driving for Ferrari.

He was persuaded to return from Italy by Frank Williams, who had faith in a driver dismissed by many as immature, ill-spoken and whingeing.

The Mansells have three children, one of whom, Chloe, was ten yesterday, and Nigel dedicated his victory to her. He has homes in Florida, Portugal and on the Isle of Man, where he is a special constable. He has an aircraft and a helicopter pilot's licence.

and he is more than competent at a number of other sports, golf, karate and snooker among them.

More than any other driver, he has brought Formula One racing back to the public, especially in Britain. He is immensely popular, a multi-millionaire who has not lost the common touch. At Silverstone, he mingles with the crowds in the camp sites; here in Hungary he donated, privately and with no fuss, a large sum of money to charity.

This year has been his year of years, his skill determination at last matched by a world-beating car. He opened the season by winning in South Africa by more than 20 seconds, leaving the defending world champion, Ayrton Senna, already talking about losing his title. Senna's fears were soon confirmed: Mansell won in Mexico, Brazil, Spain and San Marino.

It seemed there was no stopping him — until Monte Carlo. Mansell dominated most of the race until a loose wheel-nut forced him to a pit-stop. He rejoined behind Senna's McLaren-Honda but was unable to find a way past, losing the race by 0.215sec.

Mansell's only setback in his championship season came in Canada, where he spun out after trying to overtake Senna. He put that incident behind him to win in France, Britain and Germany.

NIGEL MANSELL

Born: August 8, 1953, Upton-on-Severn, Warwickshire. Children: Chloe (ten yesterday), Leo (seven), Greg (four). Homes: Isle of Man, Florida and Portugal. Formula one record: Debut, Austria 1980; starts, 173; wins, 29.

Year-by-year: 1980: Lotus-Ford (0 pts); 1981: Lotus-Ford, 14th in world championship (6 pts); 1982: Lotus-Ford, 14th (7); 1983: Lotus-Ford/Lotus Renault, 12th (10); 1984: Lotus-Renault, 9th (13); 1985: Williams-Honda, 6th (31, 2 wins); 1986: Williams-Honda, 2nd (70, 5 wins); 1987: Williams-Honda, 2nd (61, 6 wins); 1988: Williams-Judd, 9th (12); 1989: Ferrari, 4th (38, 2 wins); 1990: Ferrari, 5th (37, 1 win); 1991: Williams-Renault, 2nd (72, 5 wins); 1992: Williams-Renault, champion (77 pts, eight wins).

He was made an OBE last year.

Cooke to manage the 1993 Lions

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT IS the toughest of touring schedules and the British Lions rugby union team will reflect this with a talented management team for the tour to New Zealand next summer. Geoff Cooke has been appointed tour manager to complete a triumvirate with Ian McGeechan, of Scotland, and Dick Best.

McGeechan, as assistant manager, and coach, will be on his second successive Lions tour, while Best, who succeeded Willie Aspinall as coach in the five nations championship last season, is the assistant coach.

The Lions play three Tests against the All Blacks, and 13 matches in all between May 22 and July 6. Cooke said yesterday: "It is a great honour to be given the job and I am pleased to have such an excellent coaching team with me."

He recognised the scale of the job confronting the team. "In terms of Lions tours it is the ultimate test. In New Zealand, you are under pres-

sure all the time. The provincial sides are very strong and I would think that everyone in the game would say it is the toughest country to tour."

Best were among six candidates interviewed. Four independent selectors are to be appointed later and Cooke said: "It is especially nice to have been given such early notice and we will all be watching this season's internationals with even more interest."

Cooke added that his and Best's appointment was "a reasonable reflection of the position England have reached during the last few years."

Cooke has been part of a revitalisation of England's international team. With more than 40 internationals, three tours and a World Cup behind him, he is ideally suited to the demands of the Lions job.

New Zealand win, page 20

Liverpool lucky to go down by a single goal

Nottingham Forest..... 1
Liverpool..... 0

MATCH FACTS

By Stuart Jones

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
LIVERPOOL yesterday completed a pointless start by the three clubs favoured to pursue Leeds United in the inaugural Premier League championship. Featured in the first game to be televised live this season by BSkyB, they began their campaign later than Arsenal and Manchester United but the outcome was equally fruitless.

Moreover, the defeat could have been as embarrassing as that inflicted by Norwich City on Arsenal, a result which will form one of the surprises not only of the opening weekend but also of the whole season. Yet Liverpool are not, and perhaps will not be, the formidable side of old.

Outplayed and almost overwhelmed by Nottingham Forest throughout the first half, they promised to be more vulnerable at the back than they have been for three decades. If Graeme Souness persists with an obviously unsuitable formation, they are unlikely even to be among the principal contenders.

As was illustrated during the Charity Shield when they conceded four goals to Leeds United, their system of employing only three defenders is flawed. Tanner is not secure enough to operate with only two colleagues and Walters cannot offer the assistance required by a midfield player guarding a flank.

Whelan, stationed in front of the central trio, attempted to block the gaps which appeared around him and Wright tried to minimise the damage. Yet the understudy for Grobbelaar, their goalkeeper who chose instead to represent Zimbabwe, was left to ponder the credibility of Liverpool's awesome reputation.

James, who was acquired from Watford in the summer, was under siege for the first ten minutes and not until after the interval was he allowed even a temporary respite. By then Forest, tired by their own attacking exertions, were showing signs of early-season fatigue.

They scored only once but the goal will have enhanced the interest which has recently centred on Sheringham. The tall centre forward, showing a significantly improved first touch and overall comfort on the ball, put them ahead with a spectacular strike on the half-hour.

Liverpool were convinced that he was offside when Gemmell

	Nottingham Forest	Liverpool
Shots	6	3
Corners	4	7
Free kicks	19	19
Offsides	4	6
Cautions	1	2

threaded one of several incisive passes through their rear-guard. Sheringham ignored their appeals, cut in from the left and unleashed a powerful drive diagonally beyond the reach of James.

Liverpool, unable to suppress the ideas of Clough, the runs of Keane and the movement of Sheringham, were regularly pestered. James had to block attempts from Keane and Clough in rapid succession and he closed the half by saving athletically again from Keane.

Rush subsequently withdrew with a groin strain and, although McManaman brought on with him a sense of positive urgency, Liverpool only once threatened to take a point away from a ground where they have not won for eight seasons. Thomas spoiled the opportunity by directing his effort at Crossley's legs.

In the closing stages, Forest were denied a penalty which appeared to be as legitimate as Manchester United's claims at Sheffield United on Saturday. Keane fell under the impetus of James's spreadeagle frame but the referee — who was otherwise consistently correct in all of his decisions — visibly interpreted the stumble as a deliberate dive.

"I thought we could have scored a few more," Brian Clough, Forest's manager, claimed justifiably. He had insisted that his club would not miss the contribution of Walker, whose move to Sampdoria was completed during the summer. On this occasion, the opposition was not sufficiently inventive to expose the potential weakness.

Only half-a-dozen members of the Liverpool team which won last season's FA Cup were on view. Until they are restored to full strength and until their manager revises the personnel he requires to fit his system, their season is initially likely to be as unconvincing as it was when they were suffering even more severe problems a year ago.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, B. Law, S. Pearce, T. Wilson, S. Christie, R. Keane, G. Crossley, S. Gemmell, N. Clough, E. Sheringham, I. Wright.
LIVERPOOL: D. James, N. Tanner, D. Burrows, S. Hoob, R. Whelan, M. Wright, D. Saunders, P. Stewart, I. Rush, M. Walters, M. Thomas.
Referee: M. Reed.

Gates fail to take off

THE test for any new football league is the effect on the turnstiles. Despite its well-publicised launching, overall, the Premier League was 0.3 per cent down on last year's first division average attendance.

Leeds had a drop of 12.4 per cent on their first gate last season, though some would argue that Wimbledon were not crowd-pullers. Arsenal,

who played Norwich City, could claim the same as their attendance, with the loss of the North Bank, plummeted 24.7 per cent. Nottingham Forest, down 15.5 per cent, were victims of the Sunday television malaise.

Healthy gains, however, were reported, particularly at Southampton (39.7%), Sheffield Utd (27.0%) and Everton (19.6%).

New face of football passes muster

CLIVE WHITE

THE BSkyB sports producers said that they would wait until tonight in Manchester, when they present their second live game, before breaking open the champagne or holding a wake. After their efforts in yesterday's first marathon production of "Super Sunday" at the City Ground, Nottingham, they may have felt they were entitled to jump the gun with the bubbly.

After all the ballyhoo accompanying BSkyB's £304 million exclusive coverage of the Premier League, it must have been a relief just to get under way. It certainly was to this armchair critic. But if the five-hour show may be a sight too long for many people, the new presenters made a passable attempt to sustain interest, while the match itself went off without too many gremlins in the works.

The BSkyB people take umbrage at any suggestion that they are still wearing their I plates, believing their football coverage last season, albeit of minor tournaments, was proof of their compe-

tence. They have vowed, in time, to set new standards in football coverage, and who is to say after yesterday they will not reach their objectives?

Of course, what BSkyB's dedicated sports channel has on its side which ITV did not have, is time, possibly too much of it. With an hour and a quarter to play with after the final whistle, there is unlikely to be any repetition of last season's nonsense when Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, was cut off in his prime at the climax of the season.

Wisely, BSkyB dispensed with the practice of having a Gary Newson thrusting his microphone under the noses of obviously irritated managers for a few ill-chosen words while they headed from and to the dugout. Mind you, David Livingstone, their own doorstep reporter, got short shrift just the same from Brian Clough when he had the impertinence to ask the Nottingham Forest manager if he might ask him an

awkward question. "Young man," Clough replied, true to his caricature, "you couldn't ask me a hard question to save your life." Livingstone did well not to lose his composure after that.

The innovations were few and, in the main, well chosen. Much as I respect the eloquent, knowledgeable and pleasant-sounding Martin Tyler, BSkyB's football's chief commentator, I do like the idea of being able to silence his like without losing the stadium's sound effects.



Clough: short shrift

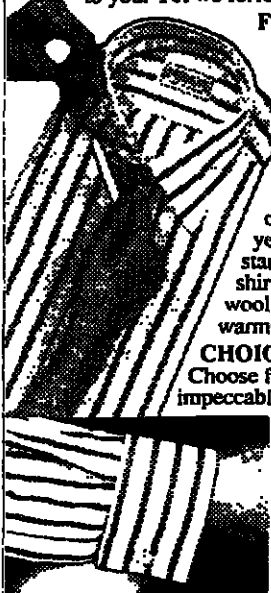
Unfortunately, the audio button on my handset did not allow me the privilege, for some reason.

Arguably more useful is the permanent presence of an inobtrusive 90-minute clock and running scoreline in a top corner of the picture. Those viewers with 14-inch sets and smaller might have had to keep leaving their seats to read it.

Andy Gray, Tyler's expert sidekick, has taken to his new career with all the gusto and self-confidence he displayed as a battering-ram centre forward. He still has some way to go yet, though, before improving upon ITV's Ian St John. Personally, I prefer a variety of guest experts. Neil Midgley appeared to have secured referee's spot should BSkyB decide the need for one, and I thought the phone-in was a useful idea to while away the minutes, even if Richard Keys, with all due respect, is no Danny Baker. One final small criticism: could someone at BSkyB please oil the replay machine?

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

DANISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: As this year's featured composer, Tchaikovsky dominates the festival's concert programme. Fresh from its triumphant appearance last week, the Danish Radio SO under Dr. Ingo Metzmacher plays the Festival Overture on the Danish National Anthem, the Symphony No. 1 and the Violin Concerto in D, with the young American Joshua Bell as soloist. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, 7.30pm.

LATE-NIGHT MIMICRY: On the eve of the festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Society presents a new version for piano by tenor Philip Langridge, mezzo-soprano Ann Murray and pianist Peter Corbett. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, 10.30pm.

BORDOIN: The Borodin String Quartet gives the first of three morning concerts which together feature all of Tchaikovsky's works for string quartet, accompanied with those of Brahms. The first concert includes the Quartet for 1 Queen's Hall, Clarendon Street, 11am.

DUTCH ART AND SCOTLAND: There is not only an Old Alliance between France and Scotland, but the Dutch have always had a special relationship, with much exchange of art and scholarship. Many Dutch paintings have entered Scottish collections in the last three centuries. The exhibition includes many Dutch paintings, including a copy of Rembrandt's 'Self-Portrait as St Paul', which have been loaned to the Scottish National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound 101-156 8921. Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, until October 16.

THE VOYSE INHERITANCE: As part of a celebration of Henry Granville Barker (1877-1946), the Edinburgh Fringe Society presents a new production of Barker's play, 'The Voyage of the Argonauts', by the Edinburgh Fringe Society. The play is a gripping drama of financial struggle in the English middle class. Royal Lyceum, Grand Street, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

SCHNITZEL: A celebration of C.P. Taylor (1929-1981) features his delightful version of Steinbeck's comedy on mobility and arguing in a declining production by Greenhead Theatre. The Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

THE ALCHIMIST: David Bradley and Jonathan Hyde bring the town of Sam Mendes's very funny production of Jonathan Ayton's 'The Alchemist'. 8.15pm, Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-Union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National Cottesloe, Southside, SE1 071-928 2251. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ael Dornham's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 071-836 5121. Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barbers. A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

FREDDIE AS F.R.O.7: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

LETHAL WEAPON 3: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

THE PLAYERS: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

THE BALLCHAMBERS BEAT: Another C.P. Taylor play is staged by Fifth Estate under director Allan Sharpe. A Glasgow pop group is discovered in Ballchambers by a London promoter and signed up for a tour.

THE CORN EXCHANGE: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

BALLET CRISTINA MOYOS: The Spanish company, led by the flamenco dancer well-known for her role in Carlos Saura's film 'Blood Wedding', offers an evening of new ballet which offers an evening of new ballet which offers an evening of new ballet.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

ORLANDO: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

DYLAN THOMAS - RETURN JOURNEY: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

DESEMONA IF YOU HAD ONLY SPOKE: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

THE LOVE OF SEVERAL DOGS: A new production of the Edinburgh Fringe Society, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

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Company bring a new adaptation of Paul Gallico's novel. The story of Mouchette, a young failed actress who joins a farcical troupe of actors and is transformed into a star. Playhouse Studio, 18-22 Greendale Place, Tonbridge, Sat, 1.15pm, until Sept 13.

ELSEWHERE
BBC PROMS 92: Christopher Hogwood directs the Academy of Ancient Music and the Choir of New College Oxford in an all-English programme. The Fourth Orchestral Suite and the Double Violin Concerto by Søren Kierkegaard. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 071-823 9988, 7.30pm.

FOKINE TRIBUTE: English National Ballet presents an evening of ballets by Fokine, the great Russian choreographer who died 50 years ago this week. The programme includes 'Les Sylphides', 'Le Spectre de la Rose', 'The Dying Swan' - the most famous party piece in all ballet - and 'Schéhérazade'. An opportunity to see the work of the often forgotten but as the father of 20th-century ballet. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 071-828 8800, Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30pm, until August 22.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: New Ray Comedy, likely to put a new twist on the familiar 'The Family' farce, with John Quaghe, Sandra Dickson and Conny Herring. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 071-839 4401. Preview on Thurs, 8pm; then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

TIME OF MY LIFE: A new theatre-in-the-round opens with Ayckbourn's excellent play, transferred from Scarborough. Almost a replica of his seaside base, the Cornubian Theatre is planned to become a second home for his productions. The Old Laundry, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 1JG, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2.30pm, until August 22.

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Justice at last for a popish plotter

La Baltasara
Tramway, Glasgow

WE MAY assume that when *La Baltasara* was first performed, in Rome in 1668, it was respectfully received. After all, its librettist, Giulio Rospigliosi, was better known by his papal name, Clement IX. But the fact that the opera had to wait 324 years for its next performance suggests that Rospigliosi (who penned many stage works, somewhat modelled on his great Spanish contemporary Lope de Vega) was wise not to give up the day job.

At least *La Baltasara* received its due in this splendid production by Kate Brown, staged as the climax of the biennial Glasgow International Early Music Festival. Warwick Edwards, director of the Scottish Early Music Consort, had dusted off and edited the original score, found in the Vatican Library (where else?), and he directed the performance while also playing the lute in one of the two instrumental groups on either side of the stage.

As befitted a story written by a Pope, *La Baltasara* has a strong religious flavour, though it begins like a 17th-century *Noises Off*. Baltasara is an actress who, after fluffing her entry in a play, experiences a divine revelation there and then - much to the consternation of her thespian colleagues. She renounces the theatre and retreats into the desert to fast and repent. There the Devil tempts her with offers of all sorts of sweets, and her friends also attempt to persuade her to return. She remains resolute, saves her best friend from being killed, and dies from hunger herself. The opera ends with her being raised towards 'the theatres of paradise' and the Devil vanquished.

With its play within a play, and its mingling of 'real' figures with allegorical ones, the opera is already subtly layered. This production also prefaces

each act with a spoken prologue in which the dramatist-Pope, castigated by a garrulous Irish priest for depicting licentious behaviour, defends his opera.

Inventing this extra layer may seem cumbersome, but it does help to establish what was probably the Pope's sub-text: that religious truth and theatrical illusion may be complementary, not incompatible. A useful sermon for a theatre-loving pontiff to preach in an age which regarded all actors as moral degenerates.

The music, by Antonio Abbatini, is Monteverdian in style. At its best, as in the wonderful duets for soprano and Act II, it approaches Monteverdi in stature. Many tunes lit along in dance-like triple time, with sparse violin refrains, separating the stanzas; there are several lively ensembles and, at the end, the obligatory 'echo' duet. Only occasionally does Abbatini miss a chance to crystallise some big emotional moment into an equally affecting aria as Monteverdi would have done.

Brown's production, designed with a light touch but plenty of period flavour by Louise Belson, had its spectacular moments: the Devil rising out of the innards of a tree in a swirl of red smoke; a marvellously lurid 'temptation scene' with much jolly cross-dressing; a beautiful transfiguration with dozens of candles; and Andrea Franchalanci's stylish historical-dance group from Florence. El Ballarino, supplying colourful routines with acrobatics and flags.

But in a three-hour opera with so much recitative sung in Italian, the burden of maintaining dramatic ten-



Janis Kelly as Baltasara: vibrant in voice and intense in her anguish

sion inevitably fell on the principal singers. Here, Glasgow was well served. In the title role Janis Kelly was riveting: vibrant in voice and increasingly intense in her anguish. Much beguiling singing also came from Tineke Olafimman and Frances Garrigosa. Alan Watt and Eleanor Bennett relished their moments of comic relief, and Henry Herford's

Devil was an athletic and exuberant figure. There was some slack ensemble and a few hesitant moments during the evening, but not enough to jeopardise this ambitious enterprise. To let the Pope's story go another 300 years without performance would surely be a cardinal sin.

RICHARD MORRISON

PROMS: ALBERT HALL/RADIO 3

Hot Maxwell Davies and a Danish smorgasbord

impressively versatile throughout the project and screaming like George III in *Eight Songs for a Mad King*. But the work is beautiful, not mere caricature.

Earlier, Davies had conducted a lucid, controlled and balanced account of Mozart's Masonic Funeral Music, K477. Afterwards, Colin Carr gave a fulsome account of Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, but after that a typically fresh, enlightened account of Beethoven's Eighth Symphony reminded us that Davies is a fine conductor not only of his own work.

The following evening, as part of the European Arts Festival, the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and National Radio Choir made a welcome visit with the Danish composer Niels Gade's cantata *The Elf-King's*

Daughter, first heard in 1853. It promised much: the text, put together by three writers, including Hans Christian Andersen, is based on an old folk tale about a Lord Oluf who is lured to the Elfin Hill the night before his wedding by the seductive Elf King's daughter. He dies on his return, before he has a chance to tie the knot.

Every opportunity there for a full-blooded piece of high Romanticism. Instead Gade's music seems reticent, too often phrased squarely, and missing the chance for vivid action. Even the 'Morning Song', much lauded in the programme notes as a magical piece, failed to emblazon the music with the expected sunlight, while when Oluf takes leave of the fairies on his way, Gade has the animal panthering after to the sound of impotent triplets rather than charging through the

woods in an *Erkoning*-like frenzy. Nods in the direction of Weber and Mendelssohn were not such as to effect a rescue.

The performance, conducted by Dmitri Kitanenko, and with the committed and pleasing team of Anne Gjevang as Oluf's Mother, Inga Nielsen as the wicked fairy, and Poul Elming as Oluf himself, was, however, blameless, and revealed an orchestra of a rich and homogeneous quality. Later, with the huge-voiced, if slightly husky and sometimes clumsy Aage Haugland, there was Edison Denisov's 1983 orchestration - a decidedly unsubtle one - of Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*.

In Prokofiev's cantata *Alexander Nevsky*, adapted from his music for Eisenstein's epic patriotic film, by far the most effective number in what might be described as a skillfully bombastic sequence was the song 'Field of the Dead', which Gjevang sang like a dream.

STEPHEN PETTITT

TELEVISION REVIEW

First, tentative moves

the naive literalism of *El Penitente* or the angst-ridden introspection of *Herodias*. The extravagantly dramatic gestures and exaggerated emotionalism? How to understand the enormous impact Graham's psychologically driven subject-matter and sexually potent choreography had on audiences 50 years ago?

Billed as a blend of performance and profile, *Martha Graham* fulfilled neither obligation particularly well. Presenter Judith Mackrell did her best to put Graham's genius in context, giving some idea of how revolutionary her violent, earthbound movements were to an audience used to the formal lyricism of classical ballet.

But there was little time for such

welcome analysis; this, after all, is a performance-oriented series. So we saw five Graham dances, performed by the Martha Graham Dance Company and filmed - not very expertly, to judge by some of the curious camera angles - during the New York company's season at the Paris Opera last year. The offerings spanned 60 years of dance-making: from <

In the steps of a natural reformer

When Michel Fokine joined the Russian Imperial Ballet in 1898 the company was proudly showing off its latest creation, Marius Petipa's *Raymonda*: the young Fokine was cast as one of the troubadours. *Raymonda*, Petipa's last major work, was set in medieval Hungary, its flimsy plot pitting Crusading knights against dashing Saracens, with the beautiful young woman of the title caught in the middle. There were exotic scenes, elaborate mime sequences, dazzling technical displays, the requisite grand pas de deux and plenty of divertissements. The aristocratic St Petersburg audiences lapped it up, but it was just the kind of spectacle Fokine hated.

Michel Fokine, the 'father of modern ballet', died 50 years ago this week. Debra Craine looks at his influence

its orgiastic frenzy; and — the most famous star turn of all — *The Dying Swan*, which became Anna Pavlova's signature piece. According to Ludmila Semenyaka, the Russian ballerina dancing *The Dying Swan* and *Le Spectre de la Rose* in this week's ENB tribute, Fokine is Nijinsky, Fokine is Diaghilev, Karsavina, Bakst, Benois. Fokine was the first figure who prepared the foundation for 20th-century ballet. He holds a special place as the father of the new century.

In many ways, Fokine was to ballet what Gluck was to opera more than 100 years earlier: a great reformer who eschewed mindless virtuosity in favour of dramatic truth and direct, naturalistic expression. Like Gluck, his reforms were so successful that subsequent generations have been able to take them for granted.

Fokine, in fact, did not so much break with tradition as return to a previous one, to the 18th-century dreams of the French choreographer Jean Georges Noverre. He had preached the rejection of symbolism and artifice and the embracing of dramatic realism on stage, with closer collaboration between choreographer, composer and designer of stage.

By disowning the acrobatic excesses of the late 19th century, Fokine was able to make movement serve both his music and his libretto, which he compressed into single acts. Narrative was no longer sacrificed to technical indulgence; even pointe work was used sparingly for dramatic effect. But Fokine did not change the steps of classical ballet; instead he found new ways of using them.

"Fokine tried to bring in the new idea that dance should tell a story and he tried to evolve a special style for each ballet so that each dance had its own look, its own type of

movement," says Eva Evdokimova, ENB guest artist performing *Les Sylphides* and *The Dying Swan*. "With the Petipa classics you can almost put one solo from one ballet into another, and no one would notice the difference. Stylistically it wouldn't show which ballet you were in."

Like Noverre, Fokine sought a unity of art forms, so that choreography, design and music became equal partners in the dance, all serving the same artistic priorities. "He lost his temper many times, screaming at us, especially over small things musically," remembers Nicholas Beriozoff, who worked with Fokine in the Thirties and has produced both *Spectre* and *Schéhérazade* for ENB. "Like Balanchine, like Massine, music was everything. For Fokine, without music the world cannot exist; the world is music. And he understood the special nuances of music; he knew it wasn't enough just to read music."

"Today there are more steps, now choreographers never repeat the same step because if they do they are accused of not having an imagination. But if the same music started again, Fokine would take his old phrase and use it again. He believed that music and movement should be related one to the other."

The members of the corps de ballet, mere ornamental backdrops in Petipa's day, became artists in their own right in Fokine's ballets; and the idea of the ensemble — the backbone of many modern ballet companies — was born.

"He was like a bomb," explains Semenyaka. "The ballerina was no longer in the centre of the ballet, she was part of art, of painting, of music. He brought a new generation of feeling into ballet: people had never seen anything like it before. He tried to open the mind of the artist, he saw that dancers needed to learn, to read, to see art. He turned dancers into artists."

Still, celebrating the Russian's genius 50 years later is not so easy: today's audiences often find it difficult to understand how these "museum pieces" once electrified a generation. To some, *Schéhérazade* now looks more like the kitsch Hollywood of Rudolph Valentino than the oriental harem of *Arabian Nights*, *Les Sylphides* more like a dusty Victorian lithograph than a



Nijinsky and Karsavina in *Le Spectre de la Rose*, a dreamy evocation of a young girl's fantasy

living homage to the delicacy and grace of Romantic ballet.

Dame Alicia Markova, who has staged *Les Sylphides* for ENB, believes audiences are deceived by Fokine's seeming simplicity. "The average person probably thinks *Sylphides* is one of the easiest things to dance but it's really very difficult if you try to achieve what Fokine wanted."

"It's the opposite of Petipa and the bravura style where you do these wonderful things and then say to the audience, 'you see what I

can do? In Fokine's ballets you have to have great strength technically from the waist down but it must be concealed. Today we have very fine dancers but somehow one is aware of the mechanics of things. With Fokine they have to be learnt and then rather dismissed."

Part of the problem, too, is that today's dancers have lost the sense of individual style inherent in Fokine's work. "Teachers, schools, companies all concentrate too much on the technical execution of each step," says Evdokimova.

"They don't see the overall expression, how to use the music, how to build the character using these steps. Dancers today don't know how to really listen to the music. They tend to perform all ballets in the same way. Fokine would turn in his grave if he saw them trying to do more pirouettes, get their legs up even higher. To what end? We have lost sight of the essence of ballet."

● The Michel Fokine Tribute opens tonight at the Festival Hall, South Bank (071-928 8800), 7.30pm and continues until Thursday

ARTS BRIEF

Saved for West End

RADIO TIMES, the musical devised by Alex Armitage of *Me and My Girl* fame, has had its West End opening saved by PolyGram Recording Operations Limited. They have stepped in as co-producers with the Birmingham Rep after Armitage announced the cancellation of the London opening when an American backer suddenly withdrew his £200,000, a crucial slice of the £700,000 costs. The show, with songs by Noel Gay (*Me and My Girl*) and starring Tony Slattery, will now start previews as planned at the Queen's Theatre on October 9, with the first night set for October 15, after a month's run in Birmingham.

Visiting Russian

YET another ballet company from Russia will make its British debut at Sadler's Wells in November. This is the St Petersburg Ballet Theatre, directed by Boris Eifman, which has been steadily building a reputation for some years, and is not to be confused with the hitherto unknown company, also named after that city, which recently announced a British tour of *Swan Lake*. Eifman's speciality is dance dramas using classical technique and usually a literary source. In London, from November 17-21, he plans to show *The Murders*, based on Emile Zola's *Thérèse Raquin*, together with an adaptation of *The Barber of Seville*.

Meanwhile, Sadler's Wells, just saved from closure by a rescue package of £280,000 from the Arts Council and three other organisations, has now hired a public relations consultancy to find more money — mainly from business.

Last chance

FOR all the grand designs and marketing mega-hype, Michael Jackson has not had the happiest of times on the British leg of his "Dangerous" tour. Accused an unfavourable reception by the tabloid and music press and embroiled in the resulting litigation, he succumbed to a virus which caused him to postpone the second of his Wembley Stadium (081-900 1234) shows on August 1. That performance has been rescheduled for August 23 (original tickets valid), which has in turn caused the Wembley concert for Friday to be moved forward instead to Thursday. Confused? Well, at least his other dates at The Haugh, Glasgow (041 227 5511) tomorrow, and Wembley Stadium, on Saturday, are unaffected, so far.

John Russell Taylor asks why the Edinburgh Festival is so half-hearted about visual art

Lots of drama but little vision



The status of the visual arts in the Edinburgh International Festival has been dubious for the past few years. Not, of course, for the visiting public, who flock to festival exhibitions in their thousands. But clearly for the organisers of the official festival, who seem to act as though exhibitions are a vaguely nice thing to have around, but quite marginal to the main business of the festival, which is perceived as musical and theatrical.

Last year an irate gallery director instituted a statistical study which showed there was clear evidence that more people visited the festival exhibitions than all the musical and theatrical events put together. There was no official response to that, but this year the visual arts are barely mentioned in the official programme (only four listed, plus one that has since been cancelled), have been omitted from most of the advance publicity, and just sneak into the *Festival Review*, where they are represented exclusively by the shows at the various national galleries.

This is curious, when exhibitions feature largely in the reasons given by visitors for coming to the festival at all, and are certainly one of the most immediate and vivid ways that the festival brings the world to Edinburgh and presents Scotland to the world.

This year, at least, there is little room for the complaints of past years that the festival's location in the capital of Scotland is too little exploited through the presentation of specifically Scottish art. Most of the major exhibitions are very much to do with Scotland, showing Scottish artists such as Allan Ramsay, James Pryde, Will Maclean and J. Craig Annan, or at least using Dutch art to chart the history of Scottish taste. But this is not the whole story. Even one of the shows organised by the Scottish National Galleries is devoted to an artist who seems to have nothing at all to do with Scotland.



Unexpected: *Woman and Bird*, a 1967 painted bronze

the Royal Scottish Academy. Everything in it, 72 sculptures and 15 large drawings, comes from the collection of the Fondation Maeght in southern France, and it seems that even this extraordinary assemblage does not exhaust the Fondation's resources. Such single-minded collecting is impressive, but it does not necessarily make for a particularly selective show.

Though Miró dabbled in sculpture throughout his career, it was really the toy of his old age: everything here was made in his 70s and early 80s. While the sense of enjoyment is palpable and infectious, it would be hard to maintain that the results are always very substantial. No matter. The inventiveness is still staggering. Like his compatriot Picasso, Miró was touched by Surrealism, had a wicked sense of humour and loved to do unexpected things with found material. His sculptures are sometimes brightly coloured, like his paintings, and often bear mysteriously arbitrary titles, to set spectators wondering whether

they too can recognise *A Man and Woman in the Night* in what appears to be two stools, one upside down, or a *Woman and Bird* in an upturned chair with a shoe on top.

As a famous Scot once said, if at first you don't succeed... It is amazing how often, after a moment or two, illumination floods in from some unexpected quarter: proof that the old Surrealist principle of free association still pays dividends.

More Latins touched by Surrealism turn up in the show organised by the Latin American Arts Association at Edinburgh College of Art, somewhat combersomely entitled *Cross Cultural Currents in Contemporary Latin American Art*. This had its origin in an artists-in-residence programme and symposium which gathered together a variety of South American artists last May in north Wales. Work done at that time by those artists is now shown, with some additions; the intention is apparently to indicate that European stereo-

types of Latin American Art do not apply, or at any rate do seem justice to the originality and diversity of this particular art, made by 13 artists from seven countries.

Fair enough: stereotypes never do total justice. But there is often more in them than those stereotypes like to admit. Though the artists shown are indeed diverse, all their work looks, even at a glance, Latin American.

Certain ways of approaching reality, of seeing things with a fantastic slant, seem to underlie almost all the work. Some of it — that of the Colombian Ramiro Arango in particular — can reasonably be labelled "magic realism". But even the more abstract work seems to have a particular local form of fantasy and dislocation of response built in.

The festival show at the Royal Museum of Scotland moves things back to Europe, from the heart of Europe, Hungarian arts treasures of a thousand years, 896-1896. These encompass everything from the primeval to the positively decadent, but the central and most imposing section is concerned with Hungarian baroque.

There is wonderfully intricate religious metalwork and finely massive silver gilt tankards. There are superbly designed medals and lavishly decorative military accoutrements. Gold and silver enough to satiate the appetite of the most avid exhibition-going treasure-seeker. But more than that, the show offers an insight into the life and works of a place and a time too little known in this country. Which is, after all, one of the important things an international festival is supposed to do.

● Miró Sculptures, Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound (031-556 8821), Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm, during festival Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 11am-6pm, until September 20. Admission £3, concessions £1.50.

● Cross Cultural Currents in Contemporary Latin American Art, Edinburgh College of Art, Lauriston Place (031-229 9311) open daily 10am-6pm, until September 5.

What Columbus had to do with Liverpool is a mystery. Nevertheless, the dry does boast a statue of the navigator bearing the cryptic words "The discoverer of America was the maker of Liverpool." On this slender hypothesis, Liverpool has been hosting the tall sailing ships that have now crossed the Atlantic both ways in a "Grand Regatta Columbus". The weekend has been a pageant of fireworks, marches, fly-pasts, sail-pasts and, on Friday night, this "Fanfare for a New World": more than three hours of open-air entertainment featuring opera stars, more fireworks and flamenco dancing. The King and Queen of Spain, the Duke of York and 15,000 Merseysiders paying £25 to £150 a ticket crammed onto specially built grandstands in the King's Dock to watch.

What a proud sight these great vessels made: some ancient, others recent; some sleek, others vast hulks. They came from all over the globe, bedecked in their finest colours. And when they started to sing, it was even better.

Montserrat Caballé negoti-

FANFARE FOR A NEW WORLD

Pooled resources



Julia Migenes: trim

ated her way safely through "Casta diva", and then sang a quivering but heartfelt "O mio babbino caro". The astonishing figure of Rita Hunter glided on serenely, her majestic sails billowing from sparker to jib. A local lass (now living in Australia), she

delivered short but colossal slabs of *Tannhäuser* and *Turandot* before leading "You'll Never Walk Alone", though the massed singing hardly rivalled Anfield.

Alfredo Kraus was in terrific form, rounding up the usual top Bs from *Werther*, *L'elisir d'amore* and *Rigoletto*. And Justino Diaz turned up the passion in "Nemico della patria" from *Andrea Chénier*.

With orange hair flaring in the breeze like a distress signal from a brigantine, Julia Migenes gave a liberally deconstructed "Summertime", a lively *Carmen* selection and a trim "Vissi d'arte". Dennis O'Neill's "Nessun dorma" had more excitement and fewer mannerisms than more famous brands.

Dmitri Hvorostovsky was unimpressive in "Largo al factotum", but he hurled out the barnstorming Russian folksong "Dark Eyes" in more convincing style. The flamenco

co dancers of Paco Peña's troupe clattered briefly but brilliantly across the stage, and the compère, Sir Peter Ustinov, was urbanity personified. You sense a long evening ahead when the conductors work in shifts. Robin Stapleton and Julian Reynolds just about did the business, though some of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's playing was untidy, to put it mildly. But who can blame an orchestra placed inside a cardboard "Spanish galleon" that suddenly turned into the Blackpool illuminations during the *Flying Dutchman* overture? The searchlights that flashed not quite in time to the *Carmen* prelude must have been distracting, too.

This was not an overly sophisticated evening then, but it was a good-natured one. King Juan Carlos resisted the temptation to embrace any of the participants, even the Spanish ones. But over on the Birkenhead shore, the tall ships — their masts and rigging prettily illuminated — seemed to dance approval.

RICHARD MORRISON

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on *The Taking of Liberty*

Wandering off in need of rest

The signs of a poor play are many and various, but I offer as a reliable pointer any scene in which a character bends tenderly over another and bids her rest. It is true that Chekhov's Sonya repeatedly talks of resting in her closing speech while poor Uncle Vanya is totting up the pounds of sunflower oil, but the speech is ironic, and irony doesn't count.

However, in Cheryl Robson's seemingly endless stare at the French Revolution, young Marie, or maybe it was Agathe, smooths the fevered brow of Catherine, or possibly Thérèse, in their prison cell — perhaps in Lyons, though Rouen is also mentioned — and murmurs, "Rest". It is

conceivable that heroic heroines in 1794 spoke thus to one another, but it sounds like sloppy writing to me.

There is a lot of it about in this play. Robson essays an epic style — lots of short scenes set here, there and everywhere and generally ending on a line that compresses the essence of the scene into a few flat words. This is a recipe not only for sloppy writing but for simple characterisation.

Robson wants to show us women in action, fighting against Robespierre's godless revolution, burying corpses illegally at dead of night and contemptuously accusing their men-folk of playing politics.

And what says these men are. The mayor is a drunk, the

priest a hypocritical lecher. The revolutionaries from Paris hold babies over braziers and their lickspittle supporters in the Commune steal flour from the people. The only decent chap, urging the wives to stand up for themselves, turns out to be a famous Parisian whore, and a woman to boot.

In so far as a narrative thread exists, it concerns the village cross, where once the flowers of believers rested, torn down on orders from Paris and replaced with a nude statue decked out with a cap of liberty and a tricolour. The rain washes the red dye out of the cap, which is taken as a sign that the statue is bleeding; the women throw the statue into the river, and when their

husbands rat on them are packed off to the slammer and invited to rest.

This small theatre's rectangular stage boasts two entrances, but both are at one end and this makes it peculiarly unsuitable for the epic style. Not that a succession of variously focused exchanges of opinion has any more reason to be termed "epic" than a scene of aimless dialogue should *ipso facto* be called "dramatic". Stern, intent engagement with an issue is required, instead of which Robson's pen goes wandering, and my attention likewise. Jennie Darnell directs.

● *Man in the Moon*, 392 Kings Road, London SW3, 071-351 2876

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

BY ALAN BENNETT

"NIGEL HAWTHORNE GIVES THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS LIFE" Observer

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FIRST CALL



Railing against the dictates of advertising: Douglas Coupland at a bookshop signing of *Shampoo Planet*. 'Young people... have deemed history and geography irrelevant'

To label lovers everywhere

In shopping malls and cineplexes throughout the G7 world, the under-21s wander, addled by MTV, addicted to Nintendo computer games, and dressed by The Gap or Benetton. They are a lost generation in search of an identity.

They pass unnoticed among well-defined baby boomers, hippies, Sloane Rangers, preppies and yuppies... at least they did until last week, when Douglas Coupland christened them "Benetton Youth" or "Global Teens" and wrote them a bible entitled *Shampoo Planet*.

From Bristol to Boston, from Nagasaki to Naples, he explained, these late teens have one defining common characteristic — really great hair. As Mr Coupland's protagonist, 20-year-old Tyler, puts it: "Your hair is you — your tribe — it's your badge of clean. Hair is your document."

Trying to decide between PsychoPath sports shampoo with salon-grade microprotein or a splash of Monk-On-Fire, finally sculpted by First-Strike mousse from the plutoNium institute, Tyler adds, "What's on top of your head says what's inside your head."

No wonder the global teens are obsessed with cleanliness. Most are the children of the hippie generation, and they don't mind wearing ties. To them, Ronald Reagan is emperor. I'm actually quite in love with them. They're so much more

Douglas Coupland, the author who last year defined the "low pay, low status, low future" generation X, has now discovered the "global teen". He tells Kate Muir what this means

optimistic," Mr Coupland says.

These "mall orphans" communicate in mallpeak: their language is international because it is almost entirely made up of brand names and consumer durables.

Mr Coupland, who was once a sculptor in Vancouver, Canada, broke into the generation-defining business last year, with *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, a handbook-cum-novel about those in their twenties. Suffering from the recession, the X-Generation is cynical, alienated and forced into "McJobs" with "low pay, low status, and low future".

At a reading in Bretano's bookshop in New York last week, the X-ers were out in force, waiting for their guru to arrive. Almost all were in their early twenties. Their clothes were unisex and insignificant: washed but not ironed — polka dots, baseball caps and white T-shirts — but there was no question that their hair was clean.

In the shelves between Drama and Literary Criticism, three young women were talking. Two were wearing beepers in case that important social call came through. "So they do this fat-free, low-cholesterol chicken breast, marinated with

bay-sel [basil], and tomato and arugula salad with the dressing on the side," advised one. Then they clomped off in their clogs to sit in the crowd below the podium and listen to the man who has written "a post-modernist masterpiece", according to *Esquire* magazine.

Mr Coupland snickers at that. "A few years ago, David Byrne was on the cover of *Time* magazine, and a few weeks later your grandmother was post-modernist. It's like oxygen, post-modernism, it's everywhere, it's just the way things are." A former art student in the early 1980s, when "there was far too much self-indulgent performance art about", Mr Coupland himself prefers the old-fashioned comforts of the modernist school. He has a thought. "Why is it that then, the international style was such an optimistic thing, but the global village is such a boring one?"

Because, presumably, the global village will eventually be peopled with the types chronicled in *Shampoo Planet*. If this is the future, it is a depressing one. Mr Coupland claims his analysis is correct, for he has talked to the under-21s.

Tyler and his girlfriend speak in "Telethon-ese". "You're beautiful, Tyler."

"No, YOU'RE beautiful, Anna-Louise."

"Tyler, you are fabulous, truly fabulous. Stop being so fabulous. Just STOP it."

"Anna-Louise, the work you do for those kids. It's... BEAUTIFUL."

"Come on, let's hear those phones start to ring."

So steeped are the global teens in television, so hardened is their ironic view of society, that when Tyler's mother visits his room (the "Modernarium") for a chat, he notes that they are sitting in typical talk-show host-to-guest formation.

When he is not reclassifying his CD collection with his new computer spreadsheet, or taking cocktails from his in-room grey Italian mini-fridge, or getting depressed because his girlfriend has made love to someone else in a satellite dish, he worries about getting a

good job with a sizeable pension.

Even simple acts such as eating become label-intensive. The global teens are always munching Cheezies Nuggies or Nacho Noodles, or drinking Designated Driver non-alcoholic beer. At their favourite restaurant, the Toxic Waste Dump, the girls announce they are going off to the Ladies, nicknamed Planet Purge, to swap bulimia tales, and no one bats an eyelid.

Mr Coupland's resentment of television and all things consumerist exploded into his two novels when he found them inescapable. "When I was 20 and left home, I decided I would never own a TV. I wanted a 19th-century brain. I thought if I kept all that out of my environment, my mind would eventually revert to something greater. Of course, ten years later, nothing has changed."

Mr Coupland's theory is that the pathways of your brain harden at age ten or 11. "Until then, you find it easy to learn another language, but after that, your brain turns to concrete. That's how you define a generation."

With advances in information technology, generations are getting smaller. Each new invention — computers, television, videos, virtual reality — gets to young people at a critical age, and separates them from the previous generation.

"My parents had print, radio and cinema," says Mr Coupland. "Then I had lots of print, lots of TV, but no computers and videos. Ten years later, kids have no print, way too much TV, interactive TV where they change channels constantly, and computers."

The prognosis is not all bad. Mr Coupland thinks it is wrong to assume that all new computer material is database junk. "It's a conceit on the part of older people to assume younger people have to know everything they know. Something's got to go. Unfortunately, young people seemed to have deemed history and geography irrelevant, and to me, they're extraordinarily important."

He runs his fingers wearily

through his hair, looking his full 30 years now in his Gap shirt. The global teen generation cannot entirely be blamed for its shortcomings. They have only known Reagan-Bush or Thatcher-Major, and cannot imagine anything else. Emotionally, Mr Coupland continues: "I still remember Jimmy Carter. I still remember Pierre Trudeau. I still remember a time when society cared about other people. But there's nothing in these kids' databases to show that there are other options, that it wasn't always dog eat dog. Older people have to somehow convince young people that better things are possible."

By way of protest, he has his characters write slogans on every dollar bill that passes through their pockets. YOUR INABILITY TO ACHIEVE SOLITUDE MAKES YOU SETTLE FOR SUBSTANDARD RELATIONSHIPS, says one. YOU ARE PARALYSED BY THE FACT THAT CRUELTY IS OFTEN AMUSING, says another.

The slogans permeated *Generation X's* margins, too — REINVENT THE MIDDLE CLASS etc — and are similar in style to those used by Jenny Holzer, the artist who represented America in the Vienna Biennial. Depending on your viewpoint, this is either a case of sculpture meeting literature, or more database junk.

Perhaps Mr Coupland is wrong, and the materialistic mall-children are purely a North American phenomena. In fact, until *Generation X* spread like a teenage plague through the country, its author thought the only people who would understand were those on the northern West Coast: Vancouver, Seattle, and Oregon.

"The only people I thought would connect with it were a few people I grew up with. I never thought it would cross the Rockies." Instead, it has gone as far east as Manchester's Arndale Centre, one of Britain's greatest malls.

In Europe, Mr Coupland says, it is easier for books to get noticed. "People listen to writers like Vladimir Havel. No one cares because we've got to compete with Kurt Cameron, star of TV's *Growing Pains*," he says, reaching out to trace the outline of his hand on the flysheet of a book, his way of signing the hundreds of new copies of *Shampoo Planet* being purchased all around him.

Generation X is published in Britain by MacDonald, *Shampoo Planet* (Pocket Books in USA) will be published in Britain next year.

O lucky man

South Africa's most popular singer has moved from townships to the world stage

His biggest ambition in life is to play the part of Dracula in a horror movie. Meanwhile, he settles for being one of the most popular singers the African continent has ever produced. His name is Lucky Dube and his trade is township reggae. He arrives in Britain today to perform in the World in the Park festival, which started at Bath's Royal Victoria Park yesterday.

Dube is the man who changed the way an entire country thought about its music. Before Dube, South Africans believed that the only big stars were those who came from other countries. They believed that the absolute ceiling for record sales by a local act was 250,000 records. And they firmly believed that reggae music had no place in the local market.

Seven years ago, it was almost impossible for a reggae musician to get a recording contract in South Africa. Today, record companies are practically lining up to sign every reggae act that comes along.

Until the mid-1980s, international acts such as Bob Marley and Peter Tosh had an enormous following in South Africa, across the boundaries of the black and white markets. But that following had never translated into support for home-grown reggae, despite the presence of several dedicated Rastafarians. Then came Dube.

He is the most popular singer in South Africa, and possibly all of Africa. In the republic's market, an artist earns a gold disc from 25,000 sales and platinum after 50,000. Dube earns up to ten platinum discs every time he records.

Andy Morgan, the spokesman for the Wilshire-based Womad (A World of Music Arts and Dance),

outside Africa until a year ago, when he was invited to play in Jamaica's annual Reggae Sunsplash festival. He was given one hour to perform but when he left the stage he was called back for encore after encore. According to Jamaica's *Western Mirror* newspaper that week, "one would definitely have to go back to the days of Marley and Tosh to find a performer who could stir a crowd's emotions the way Dube did".

Before 1985, Dube had made a bare living from mbaqanga — the same rhythm that powered Paul Simon's *Graceland*. But he was one of the few thousand committed Rastafarians in South Africa; he believed reggae could bring together black people and help liberate them from oppression.

He does not believe his stance is political, and he distances himself from any party political or organisational stance. Nevertheless, he appeared as the main act at the Human Rainbow Concert held in Johannesburg in March 1990 to celebrate Nelson Mandela's release from prison.

The concert also marked the beginning of Dube's greater penetration into the white market, which had previously seen him largely as an ethnic act. Today white fans account for about a tenth of his record sales. "The people who come to my shows think the same way I do," he says. "When my black fans see white people at my shows, it makes them happy. They say this is what we are fighting for."

In 1985, he persuaded his cousin and producer Richard Siluma to let him make his first reggae album. Dube's record company, Gallo, balked at releasing it. Legend has it that Gallo only went ahead to prove to Dube that it could not work.



Committed Rastafarian: Lucky Dube is performing for Womad

which hosts Bath's annual festival of exotic music and rhythm from around the world, says that when Dube did a Womad festival in Spain in May he was one of the most successful acts on that bill. "He was one of the least known artists before the festival and one of the most loved ones afterwards."

Dube also played at the Town and Country Club in north London in May, but is still known only to reggae aficionados in Britain. "I hope this festival will start changing things," Mr Morgan says.

The concert features several obscure artists who are revered in their own countries: Papa Wemba from Zaire, Belgian group Zap Mama, an a cappella outfit which mixes African, Arabic and European influences, and one of India's best loved instrumentalists, mandolin player U Srinivas.

Born 28 years ago in a black ghetto near Ermelo, a dusty town in the eastern Transvaal, Dube was orphaned as a child. He grew up with a succession of uncles and aunts, but had no real home.

Today, Dube lives in the northern Natal town of Newcastle. Notoriously private, he has kept his wife and daughter out of the public eye. This is in complete contrast to other successful black artists, most of whom move into expensive city suburbs as soon as they become successful.

Dube was a virtual unknown

The LP was called *Rastas Newer Die*. It sank so fast many of his fans have never heard of it. But Dube, 22 at the time, was determined: he made a second reggae album, *Think About The Children*, and it went gold in South Africa. His record company put its promotional muscle behind a third LP, *Slave*.

To say Slave was a milestone in South African music is like calling the Grand Canyon a furrow. The key phrase on the title track, "I'm just a slave, a legal slave", struck a chord in hundreds of thousands of black South Africans. At last count, the album had sold close to half a million units.

Early this year, Peter Gabriel invited Dube to join in a series of Womad festivals around the world, culminating in the World in the Park concert. Gabriel's Real World Organisation is also hosting a series of recordings, under the banner of The Real World Recording Week, starting in Bath today. Dube appears on Sunday, the finale of Womad's tenth anniversary celebrations.

ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK



Poet's passions

Charles Causley celebrates his 75th birthday by remembering his youthful reading, from improving tales to early Penguins, from 'William' to Shakespeare.

The TES reports this Friday.

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A key to the mystery of the brain

How and when was the human brain formed? What is the difference between mind and soul? Technical advances in biology are bringing scientists closer to the answers to ancient questions. Now, to coincide with the publication of *Bright Air, Brilliant Fire: On the Matter of the Mind* by Gerald Edelman, The Times in conjunction with Dillons and Allen Lane The Penguin Press is sponsoring a lecture on this subject.

Dr Edelman, a Nobel laureate and the director of the Neurosciences Institute, New York, and Oliver Sacks, Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, both argue that biology is the key to understanding the brain. Introduced by Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology, Oxford University, Dr Edelman will speak on biology and



The two lecturers: Gerald Edelman (left) and Oliver Sacks



The two lecturers: Gerald Edelman (left) and Oliver Sacks

the brain, followed by Dr Sacks on neurology and the soul. The lecture will take place on September 7 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. Times readers

can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon (right) or contacting Dillons by telephone, fax or in person. Bright Air, Brilliant Fire is published on September 3 by Allen Lane The Penguin Press (£20).

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What's new, pussycat?

Liz Smith follows the fake fur trail and sees fashion coming out in spots again

Tarzan meets Jane. Again. The story of animal spots and stripes is a fashion classic. Far from being an endangered species, leopards, panthers and tigers are on the prowl, their markings stamped on chifon T-shirts and Lycra leggings. Just when you think Yves Saint Laurent's understated tailoring looks a little tame on the catwalk, the model peels off a jacket to reveal a sheer panther-printed chifon top underneath. Valentino seems leopard-printed silk with black Chamilly lace into elegant evening dresses. Versace's jungle-spotted leggings (£285 in stretch silk velvet), worn with matching wildcat silk shirt (£720), are almost a uniform among New York *Vogue* fashion editors. The Duchess of York is regularly spotted in Versace's leopard-printed silk blazer, which costs about £1,300.

Animal rights activists are not amused even by fashion's more improbable mutations of panther plastic and leopard Lycra. They disapprove of fur imitations almost as much as the real thing. The latest evolution of jungle spots and stripes from chic to kitsch and back again must be driving them wild.

First it was chic. Josephine Baker, in panther coat, prowled up and down the Champs Elysées with her diamond-collared leopard on a leash in the 1920s. The elegant rich in the 1930s were merciless in their pursuit of the palest Somali panther skin coats. It is shaming to discover it took three years to round up, say, the six or eight perfectly matched skins to make just one of the fur coats collected by Nina Dyer, the famous 1950s fashion model who married, first, Baron Thyssen, and then Sadruddin Khan (son of the Aga Khan).

Then, in the 1950s the cult of the jungle cat, with its erotic glamour and grit, went wild. It became the kitch uniform of the pin-up, and inevitably, the prostitute. The odd how the leopard-printed coat and matching headscarf, now worn only by respectable matrons. Every top film star of the 1950s — Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Russell, Cyd Charisse, Jane Fonda, Gene Tierney, Jane Fonda — posed for publicity shots in leopard or panther-print. The many with the real thing, like Marilyn Monroe, sang and danced in pantherskin collared coat. It was the talisman of youth and bourgeois aspirations. Teddy Boys took to wearing it too, their long jackets trimmed with black leopardskin collars. Cadillac drivers

fin, but they had leopard-print steering wheels and tiger-skin upholstery. Tarzans and their jungle beauties played on Mediterranean beaches.

In 1958 Christian Dior gave the craze the highest fashion accolade by creating the first panther-printed *haute couture* cocktail dress in silk faille. Every fashion revival of the jungle print since the 1950s is a throwback to the indomitable glamour of that decade.

King Menelaus in the film was the first to equate animal skins with youthful vigour. He believed that, clothed in leopard skin, he would take on the strength of the animal. Leopard skin covered the helmets of Napoleon's elite *garde*. Cretan priests wear leopardskin skirts. Leopard men in Africa are seen to be blessed with the spiritual virtues of the animal and preside at initiation ceremonies. The real thing has been out of fashion, banned by the 1973 Washington treaty on the lengthy list of endangered species, and left in the wild. Since then there has been a stampede of realistic fake furs and approximations of panther spots and tiger stripes printed on to everything from velvet and satin to PVC, Lycra and — rather bizarrely, by Gianfranco Ferré — on lace.

Today the jungle print spans well-tanned chifon, the kitch in fashion. Saint Laurent, Valentino and Givenchy regularly use graphic animal markings in preference to busy flower prints for sinuous satin. Versace's leopard-printed coat and matching headscarf, now worn only by respectable matrons. Every top film star of the 1950s — Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Russell, Cyd Charisse, Jane Fonda, Gene Tierney, Jane Fonda — posed for publicity shots in leopard or panther-print. The many with the real thing, like Marilyn Monroe, sang and danced in pantherskin collared coat. It was the talisman of youth and bourgeois aspirations. Teddy Boys took to wearing it too, their long jackets trimmed with black leopardskin collars. Cadillac drivers



CHRIS MOORE

It's a jungle out there: animal prints are an enduring fashion story, climbing from the chic extravaganzas of the 1920s to the heights of Hollywood glamour in the 1950s, then surviving the trend to cheap imitations. Now, the fashion designers of the 1990s are splashing big cat prints on Lycra, silk and denim. Clockwise from above: Gianni Versace's jungle-spotted leopard and hooded bolero; Gene Tierney with feline friend; singer Grace Jones; Dennis Quaid in *Great Balls of Fire*; the Duchess of York in her Versace silk blazer



Simon Barnes describes himself as 'absurdly longhaired'. Do others agree? and how do they react?

Derby Day. Two men in suits and ties. One is me, in a trilby, no less. The other is a colleague from another newspaper. One is working, the other is on a jolly. One of us has press accreditation, the other does not. One of us wrote a book praised as "good for racing". The other did not. One of us is abused, insulted and manhandled. The other is admitted everywhere and treated with politeness and deference.

I had the work to do. I had the accreditation. I wrote the book and I had the hair. I also have long hair. It falls to shoulder-blade level. Why the hell don't I get it cut? It is unpleasant to be met with discourtesy, but how much more humiliating would it be to have a haircut selected by a Jockey Club flunkie?

But that only really answers the question why not. I am still struggling with the question why. Of course, I am a child of the 1960s. I read love and peace at university, though that hardly makes me unique. Most of my male friends from that time have a good deal less hair now, as many from choice as from the forces of nature.

It is not as if I am an unreconstructed 1960s man. I live in Hertfordshire. I share my hippy commune with my wife, a cat and two horses. I prefer Glenn Gould and John Jameson to King Crimson and Durban Poison. I do not write for *International Times* (a newspaper, you may recall, that once carried a blank advertisement bearing only the words "lick this space"). I write for *The Times*.

Long hair is no longer a statement that one belongs to this group or that group, possesses this belief or that, lives one kind of life or another. It is a mere negative. The politics of long hair are exactly the same as the cubdubility of Groucho Marx. Perhaps that is a pity.

I could (like Davy Crosby) have said it was getting in my way. But the practical inconveniences of long hair are negligible. In the Borneo rainforest, at Soldier Field in Chicago, at 30 degrees below, (in both instances working for this newspaper) there was not a

The long and the short of a very hairy tale

problem. It is the bald and the crew-cut who suffer in the sun. We're I to work with dangerous machinery (not a good idea, must be said, I would adopt My Little Pony. No one asks a woman if long hair "gets in the way", to ask me is pure sexism.

I meet occasional problems with people, though. That cannot be denied. It is mainly — almost exclusively — a British problem. British society is based on division. Divisions are cherished for their own sake. Britain, more than any where else I have ever been, is a place that loves its own lip.

The positive side of this is the feeling of liberation I always experience when I travel. In America, for example, British divisions do not apply. They do not look at your haircut any more than they listen to your accent. What they do is inspect your credit card. That is what democracy means, over there. Obviously, I am talking about the big cities, rather than the redneck enclaves of the Deep South. But it is true to say that in America, I have never once met the instinctive lip-curling that one finds at such inescapably British places as, well, Epsom, race course.

I lived abroad, in Asia, for four years, and this is an experience that tends to leave



At the races: Simon Barnes defies the dictates of fashion, and the Jockey Club's mark. An expatriate is never unaware of the shortcomings of his homeland. One always fancies oneself a little apart. Perhaps that is another why. But I suppose the principal reason I have remained so absurdly long-haired, in defiance of the dictates of fashion, convenience and common sense, is that it suits the ecological niche I have made for myself. Self-employed, non-commuting, non-office-working, non-cocktail-party-going, that's me. In professional terms, I am a man more lunched against than lunching. The truth is that I genuinely prefer crawling through reedbeds after birds and being kicked by horses to dealing and wheeling and power-lunching in town. This silly haircut rather commits me to the stance, or the delusion, that I am operating, at least to some extent, on my own terms. There is at least one considerable advantage to long hair.

It is a pretty reliable idiot Early Warning Device. There are some people who see me and at once assume I am socially unworthy. I am poor; I lack intelligence; I am of no account; I have a poor job; I come from a bad family; I simply have fewer rights than men with better haircuts. There are an awful lot of people who think along these lines. They are not worth tuppence, and they never will be. Spot them a mile off. Am I not a happier person for that?

And then I find myself among conservationists, researching for my Saturday column *Feather Report*. Among the males, I know conservationists with beards, pony tails and crew cuts. I know conservationists who look like bank clerks and conservationists who look like Charles Manson.

And none of them gives a monkey's. There are other things than haircuts on people's minds. There is a shared cause, more importantly, there is a shared delight. You can have my haircut or John Major's, it is all one to this lot. If I wanted to wash away the bad taste of Epsom Downs, all I needed to do was to go and have a beer at the Eel's Foot near Minsmere, bird reserve in Suffolk.

There is one further advantage to long hair, and it seems to me not a small one. Let me

go back about 20 years. The police came into my flat one morning, found a hippyish slum, accused me of stealing money from the electricity meter, took me away in a police car and locked me up.

I was in Bristol nick for six hours. What was I charged with? I was not charged at all. I felt this was a fundamental violation of my civil rights. But as a long-haired person, I had no rights. So I was locked up, yelled at, finger-printed.

They "knew I did it", you see. There was not an atom of doubt: how could there be? I was obviously guilty. But they got no damaging statement from me. In the end, I was released after signing an agreement to return to the nick later on. On my release, I did what all middle-class boys in trouble do. I phoned my parents. They got a letter from a smart solicitor down to Bristol nick at high speed. I was not troubled again.

This was a pretty small and petty hardship, it must be said. No one hit me. All the same, I have not forgotten it. "We know you did it," they said again and again. And they did know. They were absolutely and completely and one hundred per cent certain that I had done it. There was not an atom of doubt.

But all they actually knew about me was that I had long hair. That was the extent of the case for the prosecution. And I learnt then what it is like to be disliked on sight: to be disliked on principle. To be disliked, not by the landlord of a pub, or a gamester on a racetrack, but by the law itself.

If it needs spelling out, I learnt — just as riding a horse in cross-country events in Hertfordshire has given me the tinniest, tiniest, smallest smidgeon of a suspicion of what it must be like to ride in the Olympic Games — a tiny piece of a fragment of a morsel of what it must be like to be black.

The memory has faded, the haircut fingers on. I am a fool for keeping it, I do know that; but at least I know that the bigger fools are those who have a problem with it.

TOMORROW

Two passengers have checked in but not boarded the plane. They are probably parents who have gone through the rigmarole so far and decided to spend their holiday at home instead.
Davina Lloyd on parental fear of flying

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EDUCATION TIMES

The lessons yet to be learnt

Standards in infants' reading are declining, claims Martin Turner, who looks at the three Rs — reading, writing and reporting

The downward trend in infants' reading attainment has shown up on every instrument in all parts of the country and is without historical precedent. Yet the magnitude of this has yet to be appreciated by the public or the education professions. Within the defensive monopoly there is now no independent voice. Concern with truth has become tantamount to taking an axe to the welfare state.

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has provided at least oil for the machinery of institutional cover-up. A series of four reports during the period 1991-2 gives ground for concern over the impartiality of this long-respected body. In 1966, the Labour secretary of state, Anthony Crosland, was able to write: "Today three-quarters of pupils reach or exceed a standard [in reading] that, just after the war, only half reached or exceeded."

The NFER has done a great deal to ensure that such a comparison may never again be possible. Further, its research tactics have degenerated to the level of opinion polling.

Two NFER reports were published last month. The first consists of questionnaire information collected in a hurry and supplied to the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (CATE) for its recent review on reading. The second is a survey, from a restricted sample of schools, of reading teaching in practice, in which questionnaires were supplemented by direct observation.

In September 1990, John MacGregor, the education secretary, commissioned two reports to investigate claims that a widespread decline in measured reading attainment had taken place during the 1980s. Both reports were published in January 1991. The NFER, in "An Enquiry into Local Education Authority (LEA) Evidence on Standards of Reading of Seven Year Old Children", analysed reading test results from 26 LEAs and found that 19 (73 per cent) showed such a decline. Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI), in "The Teaching and Learning of Reading in Primary Schools", reported on methods of teaching reading, condemned in forthright terms the prevalent idea that reading is "picked up" by a process of osmosis and found "a

clear link between higher standards and systematic phonic teaching".

In March 1991 members of the education, science and arts committee of the House of Commons considered these reports. By now, much official damping had taken place. "We therefore conclude," the committee wrote, "that the claim that reading standards have fallen in recent years has not been proved beyond reasonable doubt." The CATE review of March 1992 mentioned that data from 26 LEAs had been analysed by NFER. But CATE dropped the finding that 19 showed evidence of a decline in standards, even though it had been mentioned in an early draft.

To date at least 36 LEAs show a decline; only one has reported having no such decline. Despite an abundance of evidence, the sounds of educational carnage have been successfully muffled and a safe moral distance established from the actual fates of children.

"Reading In Recession", a report published by the NFER in February this year, drew on a representative sample of 2,170 children aged seven to eight and found a decline in reading ability, between 1987 and 1991, of two to three points of standard score, equivalent perhaps to the loss of half a year's progress for the average child. It seemed that HMI had raised Parliament.

Yet the NFER was still hunting for crumbs of comfort. The fact that scores in a few schools had risen, while the majority had fallen, was used to support the conclusion that "this decline may not have been general". Further, it was speculated that social factors were to blame. This proved politically attractive to one



In love with books. But do educationists today have an accurate picture of children's reading abilities?

half of the spectrum just before a general election. Yet a studious agnosticism was maintained towards the one factor we know affects reading achievement directly: effectiveness of teaching.

One must be concerned that the intellectual integrity of researchers places them above the fray of trend and counter-trend. If their reports are captive to a partisan viewpoint, the NFER's authority is weakened. This research body has long been fed by public funds; it behaves like a branch of the education department. Yet British university departments and, in the United States, commercially independent testing organisations could carry out research and development projects to precise specifications, within a time-scale and within the budget. This would avoid the saga of fudge and counter-fudge.

What do the two most recent reports contribute to this struggle between cover-up and disclosure? The first, "What Teachers in Training are Taught about Reading", suffers from haste because much of the material supplied by colleges of education is not analysed. And questionnaire results — in effect, opinions — are the most subjective form of evidence. This limits in advance the credence that such an enquiry can expect.

There is a lot of coughing and shuffling when it comes to actual qualifications held by teacher-trainers. A little reporting of hard data here would not have gone amiss.

Although all of the 181 courses analysed claim to deal with phonics, there are no reading schemes in print that present acoustically organised text. Nor are there manuals for teachers that use phonic methods. So 60 per cent of recent graduates said "they had been taught little or nothing about phonics".

In the second report, "The Teaching of Initial Literacy", we find that most practising teachers of reading are pragmatic, even "intuitive". This is hardly to be doubted. Teachers

may have been pervasively trained and coercively advised, but they are in practice more accountable to parents than is realised. Yet how can they be effective when most teachers "organised pupils into groups for most learning activities" and a mere 8 per cent of schools visited "used whole-class teaching as their main strategy"?

The report noted "high noise content" and "poor control". The whole environment of infants' schools seems incompatible with education. Yet an objective research view of the true state of affairs may be unobtainable from the NFER.

By contrast, the domain of special educational needs and its statutory procedures has recently been illuminated by the Audit Commission in association with HMI. On each page of "Getting in on the Act", one myth or another is dispatched. Argument is based vigorously on evidence. Where evidence is lacking, the teams go out and obtain it. No unsubstantiated assertion is made. No special interests are favoured. Windows are thrown open and blasts of fresh air let in. Perhaps they can now come from no other quarter.

The author is the head of psychology at the Dyslexia Institute, Tresspass, his collection of poems will be published by Faber & Faber in November.

Papering over dissension

THE white paper is out for consultation. Copies have gone to the numerous bodies in the education department's consultative net. Citizens will pore over the paper and send their views to the secretary of state.

Considering how little notice ministers take of dissenting views, I am always amazed at how conscientious people are when asked to comment; ministers know to whom not to listen. People with some knowledge about the education system are disappointed as part of the educational establishment. Local politicians with experience of education can be written off as yesterday's men and women.

Even parents, once they get to the point of being consulted, become "professional parents". As for teachers in mainstream schools (although not in independent schools), they are suspect because of a vested interest in the status quo. That leaves business people and the small but vocal right-wing pressure groups.

This white paper was unusual in being produced by a secretary of state who had been in office for only three months. Nick Stuart, the deputy secretary and right-hand man of ministers in pushing through and implementing the Education Reform Act, has been moved to the employment department.

The new permanent secretary is Sir Geoffrey Holland from the employment department. Inside the department, John Vereker has moved from higher and further education to take over Mr Stuart's key role

in charge of schools.

Sir Geoffrey is a man whose past experience fits him for the top job in education. A key figure in the Manpower Services Commission for most of his life, he made no attempt to hide his desire to use the MSC's cash and clout as much to spur changes in education as in industrial training. He will relish the greater powers the education department now has.

Coming to the job now, he will approach the white paper with a fresh mind, becoming a part of the consultation process as well as an evaluator. As a serious policy document, the white paper is pretty feeble. But from Sir Geoffrey's point of view, this may be no great disadvantage: so much is vague and incomplete that there is still scope for his brand of creative, imaginative policy-making.

Among many other things, Sir Geoffrey and Mr Vereker have to: ● make sense of the planned takeover of education from local authorities. The change is misconceived, but if it is to happen, it cannot be allowed to take place piecemeal; ● devise a financial structure with not too many winners and losers, with which ministers cannot easily tinker to help their political friends; ● inject some rigorous thought into the discussion of "magnet" schools and the "opting-in" of private schools; ● get the secretary of state out of the minutiae of the curriculum.

VIEWPOINT
Stuart Maclure



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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax** (71272)
6.30 BBC Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laura Meyer presents news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (52979807)
9.05 Bravestarr: Animated adventures of the bravest marshall in the galaxy (r) (6099630) **9.25 Why Don't You...** 7 Entertaining ideas for youngsters at a loose end (r) (s) (4216340)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6680123) **10.05 Playdays** (r) (s) (6472678) **10.25 Lassie**. Part one of a story in which the brave canine accompanies a forest ranger looking for a demented German shepherd dog (r) (5179272)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (1984036) **11.05 Kids on Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk and his audience of young people discuss authority. Are the next generation going to change the system? (6373981) **11.50 The Traveller**. Shown in a John Thawwell assesses the Belgian resort of Knokke (r) (6921291)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7981746) **12.05 Summer Scene**. Entertainment magazine introduced by Linda Mitchell and Carol Keating from the National Garden Festival, Ebbw Vale (5212017) **12.55 Regional News and weather** (51540562)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) (34678)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (43174388) **1.50 Junior Kick Start**. The final of the motorcycle trials for youngsters. The commentators are Peter Purves and John Lampkin (61014659)
2.20 Knights Landing. Drama series set in California (3594098) **3.05 Major Dad**. American domestic comedy about family life on an army camp (6429388)
3.30 Macgregor across Scotland. On the third leg of his jaunt across the Highlands Jimmie Macgregor travels from Loch Rannoch to Fort William (r) (456)
4.00 Cartoon (3515982) **4.10 The All New Popeye Show** (r) (1752746) **4.35 Top Mates**. Episode five of a six-part Australian children's drama series (r) (Ceefax) (6303388)
5.00 Newsround (5203098) **5.10 The Lowdown**. Two 14-year-olds with hearing problems explain how they are determined to overcome the problem (r) (Ceefax) (9333630)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7263077) **Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**
6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) (340)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (920). **Northern Ireland: Neighbours** **7.00 Edoardo** (Ceefax) (s) (2388)
7.30 Bird Brain of Britain. Stephen King presents his film illustrating how intelligent garden birds are (r) (Ceefax) (104)
8.00 So Haunted. A wendigo repeat for the Paul A. Wendigo comedy series about a young couple living in a house haunted by its previous owner. Starring Tessa Peake-Jones, George Costigan and Miriam Karlin. (Ceefax) (1036)
8.30 'Allo 'Allo! More of the French resistance farce starring Gordon Kaye and Carmen Silvera (r) (Ceefax) (4253)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceefax) (6456)
9.30 Panorama. For Those in Peril. John Nicolson reports on the perilous state of Britain's fishing industry (213678)



New York detectives: Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (10.10pm)

- 10.10 Cagney and Lacey**. The two policewomen investigate the suspicious death of a girl student, killed when she fell off a roof. Starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (r) (Ceefax) (743494). **Northern Ireland: Greenfingers** 10.40-11.25 **Cagney and Lacey** **11.00 Film: The Riddle of the Sphinx** (1938) starring Jack Thompson. man-against-the-elements drama, based on the fact about the search in 1937 for a missing Stinson airplane carrying live passengers on a flight from Brisbane to Sydney. Directed by Chris Noonan (742036). **Northern Ireland: 11.25-11.55 The Last Great Adventure** (213678). **Northern Ireland: 11.55-12.00 The Last Great Adventure** (213678). **12.35am Weather** (8188166)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: The Adam Smith Lecture** (5553369). Ends at 9.25 **6.00 Breakfast News** (3349456)
8.15 Look Stranger. A profile of Bristol jobbing gardener and composer Raymond Francome (r) (4443668) **8.45 Weather** **8.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w). Pathé newclips from 40 years ago this week (r) (4780123)
9.00 Grand Prix. Highlights from yesterday's Hungarian Grand Prix (r) (7279772)
9.40 Film: International Lady (1941, b/w) starring George Brent and Iona Massey. A Norwegian singer is thought to be implicated in the bombing by the Luftwaffe of several secret British air bases. Directed by Tim Whelan (5553369)
11.20 Film: The Damned Don't Cry (1950, b/w) starring Joan Crawford. A bond housewife's involvement with a gangster leads to tragedy. Directed by Vincent Sherman (65811901)
1.00 After Hours. American entertainment magazine (61435901) **1.20 Greenaways** (r) (63263185) **1.35 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers**. Poppies (r) (61095524)
2.00 News and weather (55985562) followed by **The Kon-Tiki Man**. The voyages of Thor Heyerdahl (r) (Ceefax) (58585630) **2.30 Look Stranger**. A reconstruction of a civil war battle (r) (253)
3.00 News and weather (4677543) followed by **Songs of Praise** from Looe in Cornwall (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7948475) **3.40 A Week to Remember** (b/w). Shown at 8.50am (6297833) **3.50 News** **4.00 Film: A Gentleman After Dark** (1942, b/w) starring Brian Donlevy and Miriam Hopkins. A thief decides to go straight but his wife misses the high life his ill-gotten gains provided. Directed by Edwin L. Marin (3552098)
5.20 A Celebration of Sail. The story of the Tall Ships race (r) (9135524)
6.00 Film: The Queen of Scots (1954) starring Barbara Stanwyck and Ronald Reagan. Western drama about a woman's fight to keep her dead father's ranch from falling into the hands of land-grabbers. Directed by Allan Dwan (3475524) **7.25 Animation Now: The Irises** (118185)
7.30 Live From the Proms. An all-Bach programme performed live by the Academy of Ancient Music, conducted by Christopher Hogwood. Included are the Suite No. 6 in D and the Goldberg Variations. In addition, the choir of New College, Oxford, sing *Komm, Jesu, komm* and join the Academy to perform the *Magnificat* in D (S) simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (36494)

Essay on Englishness: Coral Browne, Alan Bates (9.30pm)

- 9.30 An Englishman Abroad**.
 ● **CHOICE**: The Alan Bennett retrospective continues to offer up more gems, this time a re-run of 1983's BAFTA award-winning drama starring Alan Bates as a tricky Guy Burgess and actress Coral Browne as herself. Loosely based on a real incident when Burgess enjoyed a chance encounter with the spy in Moscow, the play turns into a wry essay on Englishness with Burgess criticising his former countrymen for having no interest in ideas or systems, while simultaneously proving himself unwilling to renounce the trappings of class life, London tailors and silk pyjamas. Browne readily agrees to find all these things and to send them over to him, but if she fails for his charm, she makes a point of letting him know that she is not fooled by it. Spying, she reminds him, is more than "a minor social misdeed" (r) (Ceefax) (58291)
10.30 Newsnight with James Coe (223340)
11.15 Edinburgh Nights. The first of a series of three-times-a-week reports from the Edinburgh Festival, presented by Kirsty Wark (s) (926185) **11.55 Weather** (122681)
12.00 Open University: Music - Formal Analysis (2309925)
12.25am Film: Headlines (1952, b/w) starring Brian Donlevy and Forrest Tucker. Above average time syndicate-busting drama, directed by Joseph Kane (197234)
2.00 The Road to the White House. David Dimbleby reports on the first day of the Republican convention at the Houston Astrodome (2139616). Ends at 4.05

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am** (1811366)
9.25 Jumble. Cryptic word game. The guests are Mark Curry and Alan Fitchmarsh (s) (7099772) **9.55 Thames News** (204572)
10.00 One of the World (r) (2062949) **10.15 The World of the Gnomes**. Animation (r) (2065036) **10.55 ITN News** (3409185)
11.00 Ox Tales (r) (3419562) **11.25 Just for the Record** (r) (s) (1107543) **11.50 Thames News** (9586678) **11.55 Cartoon Time** (6909582) **12.10 Rosie and Jim**. Children's puppet series (r) (523524)
12.30 Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (7819524) **1.05 Thames News** (6328844)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (721920) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in a small Australian outback town (s) (720291)
2.15 The World of the Gnomes. Animation (r) (2062949) **2.45 Families**. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (9443523)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4695949) **3.15 Thames News** headlines (4687920) **3.20 The Young Doctors** (6419901)
3.50 Cartoon Time (910814) **3.55 Scooby Doo** (4569340) **4.20 Round the Bend** (r) (s) (1743098) **4.45 Chip 'n' Dale - Rescue Rangers** (6387340)
5.10 Lunchtime News. **Holmes** with another round of the general knowledge quiz game for teenagers (4041036)
5.40 Early Evening News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (604746) **5.55 Thames Hell** (r) (289727)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) (956)
6.30 Thames News (Oracle) (388)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show (7456)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (272)
8.00 After Henry. Comedy middle-class comedy starring Prunella Scales as a widow plagued by an intrusive mother (Joan Sanderson) and a headstrong daughter (Janine Wood). (Oracle) (s) (6104)



Reaching a crossroads in her life: Beatie Edney (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Lilac Bus**. Maeve Binchy's book adapted by Shane Connaughton about the lives of a bus driver who, every Friday, drives five disparate passengers from Dublin to Rathdown. When they meet again on Sunday to return to Dublin they will have each experienced a traumatic weekend. Starring Stephanie Beacham, Con O'Neill, Beatie Edney, Rynagh O'Grady, Devlin Kirwan and Brendan Conroy. (Oracle) (s) (2194)
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather (29524) **10.30 Thames News** (800098)
10.40 China Rising. See in Heaven.
 ● **CHOICE**: Tonight's programme, the middle of three, uses eye witnesses to describe the rise of Mao Zedong's communist party from the desperate time of the Long March to its early days of power. Mao apparently said he saw his people as "blanks... as clean sheets of paper", which, he added, was no bad thing. As initial revolutionary fervour gave way to disillusionment over Mao's economic policies, the chairman was able to ensure that the children at least were indoctrinated into zealous and patriotic communism. As one interviewee remembers with a degree of amusement, true comrades would do anything for the good of the country, even agreeing with Mao's idea that citizens should get up early and make a noise to terrorize the sparrows. (Oracle) (121807)
11.40 Magnum. Hawaii-based private detective series starring Tom Selleck (r) (282388)
12.30am Entertainment UK. Weekly 'what's on' guide (s) (29760)
1.30 Sport AM. Tennis from Paris, presented by Bob Symonds (23895)
2.30 Film: The Kid from Brooklyn (1946) starring Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo. A musical comedy about a mild-mannered milkman who makes a name for himself after accidentally knocking out a boxing champion. Directed by Norman Z. McCloud (22166)
4.30 Music Special. Jazz pianist Les McCann performs at Duke's Place, New Orleans (20296)
5.30 ITN Morning News (75215). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily** (3611348)
9.25 Gophers. Children's entertainment (r) (s) (7097369)
9.55 Get Smart. Spoof espionage series (9124765)
10.25 Film: Dusty Ermine (1936, b/w) starring Ronald Squire and Margaret Rutherford. Vintage melodrama about a larger, released from jail, who goes to rescue his nephew from a gang of counterfeiters. Directed by Bernard Vorhaus (8427272)
12.00 Cities at War. A portrait of London during the second world war (r). (Teletext) (85678)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early-learning series (r) (61058)
2.00 Film: The Arsenal Stadium Mystery (1938, b/w) starring Leslie Banks and Greta Gynt. Scottish Yanks investigate the death of a footballer during a charity game at Highbury. Directed by Thorold Dickinson (495524)
3.35 The Coasts of Clyde. Bernard Braden travels to the Isle of Arran (r) (941475)
4.00 A Joy to Drive. The second of a three-part series about cars and their owners from the 1930s to the 1980s (s) (391)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game introduced by Richard Whitley (s) (185)
5.00 Road to Avonlea. Children's drama series (s) (4369)
6.00 Streetwise. Drama series about a team of London cycle couriers (r) (Teletext) (678)
6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy series about growing up in the 1960s (r) (s) (630)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (324340)
7.50 Comment (524982)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (4746)
8.30 Evening Shade. Small-town America comedy series starring Burt Reynolds as the local high school football coach (s) (3253)



Who shot Bob Kennedy? presenter Chris Plumley (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Secret History: The Robert Kennedy Assassination**.
 ● **CHOICE**: Forget JFK, what about his brother? This evening's *Secret History* takes a break from massacres to allege that Senator Robert Kennedy could not have been killed by just one crazed man. Several seemingly unassailable points are made, such as the fact that 12 bullet holes were found, four more than the supposed killer could have fired himself, but the most dramatic moments come from interviews with key witnesses. One in particular, Sandy Serrano, was filmed just after the incident talking about a couple who ran past her screaming that they had shot Kennedy. She was later interviewed by the Los Angeles police who tried to persuade her to retract her statement. An extraordinary tape recording reveals the sergeant's techniques: "Be a woman about this... Don't shame his death by keeping this thing up..." (Teletext) (8307)
10.00 Film: Turbulence (1990) starring Kelly MacLellan and Clive Ainslie. Drama on the emotive issue of child abuse. Directed by Adam Kossoff (118920)
11.35 Devil's Advocate. Darius Howie challenges the executives responsible for the decision to ban reggae with sexually explicit lyrics. His guests are programme controllers Tony Williams and Zak Smith and the Rev Basil Mead, leader of the London Community Gospel Choir (292765)
12.20am Quo Vadis. Episode two of the three-part Roman drama set at the time of Emperor Nero (r) (95550321). Ends at 2.25

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